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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a PSS plan to bring drug-sniffing dogs to junior high and high school campuses to do drug sweeps?

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INSIDE



Hillary in Burma

Hillary Clinton met for a second time with former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi.

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Best Film

The National Board of Review picked Martin Scorsese's "Hugo" as the year's best film.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

DUE TO FEDERALIZATION LAW:

Filipino, Korean workers now subject to FICA taxes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most Filipino and Korean workers will have another deduction on their paychecks, this time for U.S. Social Security and Medicare taxes as a result of the federalization of CNMI immigration.

The U.S. Internal Revenue Service said that Filipino workers in the CNMI are no longer exempt from the Federal Insurance Contribution Act, unless they hold a valid H-2 U.S. visa.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

This latest development means FICA taxes will be deducted from most Filipino and Korean workers' payroll, in addition to the local

See TAXES on Page 4

Healthcare corp. urged to apply for aid via Obamacare

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER



Sablan

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is urging the cash-strapped Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to seek funding support from the federal government by applying to a grant provided under the Health

See HEALTHCARE on Page 4



FIRST-TIME VISITOR

Crewmembers of the Los Angeles class submarine USS *Columbia* (SSN-771) install a banner on the gangway after the vessel's arrival at Charlie Dock Thursday morning. The eighth ship of the U.S. Navy to carry the name, the USS *Columbia* arrived for its first visit to the island with some 132 officers and crewmembers on board. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host a welcoming reception for them today, Dec. 3 at the 360 Revolving Restaurant in Susupe.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Another firm averts Tinian stevedoring crisis

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Another firm has stepped up to the plate, albeit temporarily, to try to avert a stevedoring crisis on Tinian since the closure of Tinian Stevedore.

Norman Tenorio, one of the directors of Tinian Marine Stevedore, said TMS is looking at moving five 20-foot containers from Saipan to Tinian if not on Sunday, then on Monday.

He said the company is looking at whether their equipment on Tinian for uploading containers can handle the chore.

"If not, we'll do it manually," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) wrote a letter to Tenorio, asking assistance from Saipan Stevedore Co. Inc. in providing relief to Tinian through the provision of stevedoring services on a temporary basis, until a permanent solution can be identified.

Tenorio, who is also president of Saipan Stevedore, an affiliate company of TMS, said he got Sablan's letter on Thursday.

"We are trying to help out. We're look-

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ACCJC visiting team's exit report expected next week. PAGE 3
Philippine Consulate sees spike in passport renewals. PAGE 10

Local

Saipan birders urged to take part in Christmas Bird Count

Saipan birders and nature enthusiasts are being invited to take part on the 112th edition of the Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 16, 2011.

Just meet with CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife staff at 6am at the American Memorial Park parking lot with water, snacks or food, paper, pencils or pens, and binoculars and field guide if you have them (it's OK if you don't own binoculars, and DFW may have a few field guides on hand for use).

As you'll take part in both roadside and walking surveys, come appropriately attired. A participation fee of $5 will be required, which covers the cost of data compilation and of the annual Christmas Bird Count publication that all participants will receive.

Paul Radley of CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife will be leading and organizing the count.

Saipan has been a part of this long running winter tradition for more than 12 years. Each year from mid-December through the first week in January, birders and volunteers across the Western hemisphere participate in various daylong counts throughout the Americas, the West Indies, and the Pacific Islands.

In 2009, 59,813 participants took part in 2,215 individual counts—an all-time high—and reported a total of 61,359,451 birds of 2,250 species. The volunteer-generated data gathered have become an important part of the U.S. Government's Natural History Monitoring Database.

For those interested in taking part in the counts on Tinian (Dec. 14) or Rota (yet to be determined), call or e-mail Padley at 664-6011 or paulradleycnmidfw@gmail.com. ***(DFW)***

Court dismisses lawsuits by 2 plane crash survivors

The federal court has dismissed the lawsuits filed by two of the seven survivors of the 2006 plane crash in Upper Dandan who arrived at a settlement with Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc. and other co-defendants.

In his order issued Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Senior Judge Alex R. Munson said that following the parties' agreement, the case and all claims of plaintiffs Yoko Kamiyama and Patrick James Timmerman are dismissed with prejudice.

Dismissal with prejudice means that Kamiyama and Timmerman cannot re-open their lawsuits.

Munson, however, ruled that the court shall retain jurisdiction over the case to enforce the settlement.

Each party shall bear its own attorney fees and costs.

The amount and settlement conditions were not disclosed in court documents.

Kamiyama, a Japanese national, was among the seven passengers of a Piper Cherokee aircraft that crashed in a farm in Upper Dandan while en route to Tinian on Aug. 11, 2006.

Kamiyama sustained serious injuries.

Timmerman is a licensed pilot who was then employed with Tinian Dynasty. When the crash occurred, he was seated next to the pilot.

The plaintiffs sued for negligence and other claims against the pilot, Brent J. Hinkemeyer, Taga Air Charter Services Inc., Tinian Dynasty Hotel Inc., and Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd.

Tinian Dynasty had already settled the lawsuits filed by two other Japanese passengers. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CNMI Scholarship denies Alpino's appeal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Scholarship Advisory Board denied with finality the appeal of Katelyn Alpino's family to recalculate and approve her Honors scholarship application this semester.

In a statement posted on the agency's website, the board cited how eligible applicants are determined and emphasized that CNMI Scholarship Office has a different criteria and mechanism in determining its scholars compared to the Public School System.

Katelyn Alpino was Rota High School's valedictorian last school year but was denied the Honor scholarship grant.

"The board would like to remind scholarship applicants from Tinian and Rota that its Honors Scholarship awards are not automatically awarded to the valedictorian and salutatorian from each island," the board statement said.

It explained that under Public Law 7-32, the Post Secondary Education Scholarship of 1990, the Honors scholarship is directly awarded to the valedictorian and salutatorian on Tinian and Rota. However, this law was amended by P.L. 14-37, eliminating the automatic awarding of financial assistance to the valedictorian and salutatorian on the two islands.

The board advised this year's high school seniors who are considering competing for an Honor scholarship that the board is legally bound to use the statutorily mandated criteria.

"It is important to note that our criteria to determine awards are different and separate from the criteria the PSS uses to award distinctions to its top graduates. What this means is that because of differing award criteria used by the board and PSS, it is entirely possible for a student to receive one award and not the other," the board statement added.

Katelyn Alpino's father, Arthur Alpino, confirmed receiving the board's decision last Tuesday and plans to write a letter to the board.



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ACCJC visiting team's exit report expected next week

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College expects to receive next week a report issued by the visiting team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges that outlines their findings during their visit to the college in November.

In her report to the Board of Regents, NMC president Sharon Hart said that the commission encourages college officials to participate in next month's assembly in San Francisco, Calif., where it will tackle the exit report.

Hart said the commission meeting may take place between Jan. 10 and 12, during which NMC officials will also be asked to report additional information about its accreditation progress.

Hart said that a decision on the college's accreditation is expected in the first week of February.

NMC is currently on probation with the commission for failing to address concerns outlined in its show-cause report. These recommendations aim to address deficiencies in three areas: institutional autonomy from outside interference, institutional financial management and integrity, and institutional governance and accountability.

ACCJC associate vice president Norval Wellsfry, University of Hawaii Windward Community College chancellor Douglas Dykstra, University of Guam senior vice president Dr. Helen Whippy, and Susan Murata of Kapiolani Community College were on island from Nov. 7 to 9 to validate the content of the Oct. 15 report that NMC submitted to the commission. During the three-day visit and inspection, the team observed how regents conduct and decide on issues affecting the college.

Hart said that NMC is now working on a supplemental report that is due on Dec. 30. The first draft of the report is slated for next week before formal presentation to the board. "We're on target on all our accreditation works and we expect to submit our supplemental report on time."

According to the president, ACCJC also requested NMC to undergo training in March to help the college prepare for a full accreditation visit next year.

Grandpa accused of raping 8-year-old loses bid to obtain govt-paid experts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja has refused to provide government-paid experts for a 61-year-old man who is facing charges of repeatedly sexually assaulting an 8-year-old student.

In an order issued Thursday, Naraja said that Jose Ilo Santos failed to satisfy a two-part test for the court to appoint expert assistance.

In *Commonwealth v. Perez*, the CNMI Supreme Court ruled that the burden is on the defendant to establish (1) the existence of a reasonable probability that an expert would be of assistance to the defense and (2) the denial of expert assistance would result in a fundamentally unfair trial.

In this case, Naraja said that Santos failed to prove the existence of a reasonable probability that a forensic expert would find error in the doctors' medical reports, or otherwise be of any assistance to his defense.

Santos also did not prove that the denial of expert assistance would result in a fundamentally unfair trial, Naraja said.

Santos, also known as Grandpa Ping, was charged with two counts of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

According to court records, on May 16, 2011, the mother of the 8-year-old victim went to police after her daughter admitted that Santos has been sexually assaulting her. That same day, a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center confirmed signs of penetration. Another doctor similarly examined the girl and also found evidence of sexual abuse.

Santos, through the Public Defender's Office, asked the court to provide him with a forensic expert to assist in his defense.

Assistant public defender Douglas Hartig claimed that he needs the assistance of an expert to evaluate the doctors' examinations and their conclusions.

Hartig also asked the court to provide Santos with a government-paid expert in child witness suggestibility.

Hartig said the complaining witness is a minor who may be vulnerable to suggestion or coercion. He said it is important to appoint an expert to determine whether the allegations of sexual assault were implanted through improper interview techniques.

In denying the motions, Naraja said Santos can't point to any particular facts or evidence to refute the doctors' findings of sexual abuse, nor did he offer a reason to question the credibility or qualifications of the doctors.

Naraja said the defendant contends that an expert in child witness suggestibility is necessary to effectively present his argument that the sexual assault allegations could be the product of coercive, or otherwise improper, interview techniques.

This argument, the judge said, is nothing more than "mere hope or suspicion," which does not constitute the requisite showing of a particularized need for an expert.

"Even assuming that an expert in child witness suggestibility would be beneficial, due process does not entitle defendant to such an expert at the government's expense," Naraja said.

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Bell's palsy downs US govt witness; won't make it to trial

The U.S. government's Texas-based DNA expert has suffered a speech problem due to Bell's palsy and can't make it to the Dec. 27 jury trial of Melvin David Diaz, a Guam resident who is accused of impregnating a minor girl on Rota.

Assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons Jr. on Thursday asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to postpone Diaz's trial for at least six weeks due to the unexpected medical condition of their DNA expert.

Lemons said that Dr. Wayne L. Hoffman is a material witness in the case.

Hoffman is manager and associate laboratory director of Orchid Cellmark, Inc. Dallas Laboratory, Farmers Branch, Texas. Orchid Cellmark Inc. conducts DNA testing in paternity and other types of relationship testing.

Lemons said that not putting off the trial will likely "result in a miscarriage of justice."

He said that he had called Hoffman on Nov. 24 about a defense discovery request and noticed that the doctor's speech was slurred. He said the doctor told him that he had been to the emergency room and was being treated for a virus that was causing his speech impediment.

Lemons said that Hoffman then advised him on Nov. 29 via email that he had been diagnosed with Bell's palsy. Specifically, Hoffman had developed partial paralysis of the nerves of the left side of his face, which affects his vision and ability to speak clearly.

Lemons quoted Hoffman as saying that the paralysis was reversible and that some improvements have already been noted.

Lemons said that Hoffman will testify as to why the DNA testing performed by his laboratory leads him to conclude that the infant born to the victim in this case is the child of Diaz.

"His conclusions from the DNA testing, in conjunction with other evidence the prosecution intends to produce at trial, tends to prove the defendant had sexual intercourse with the victim prior to her turning age 16, which is a critical element to the offenses charged in the indictment," the prosecutor said.

The 49-year-old Diaz is charged with three counts of enticement of a minor and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct.

According to the indictment, between Aug. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2010, Diaz traveled from Guam to the CNMI for the purpose of engaging in illicit sex with the minor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Bill gives $200K from excise taxes for tourist sites' cleanup

House minority leader Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) wants $200,000 in excise taxes to be set aside yearly to fund the cleanup and maintenance of tourist sites.

Deleon Guerrero, along with seven other House members, introduced House Bill 17-237 to establish an account and set aside $200,000 to allow the Division of Parks and Recreation to fund the landscape, cleanup and maintenance of tourist spots in the CNMI.

"Recent cuts in budgets have reached a point where tourist sites are no longer being properly maintained. Garbage at tourist sites from off-site private residential and commercial sources is also becoming more common – to a point where trash bins and receptacles at these sites are unable to store the refuse properly," said Deleon Guerrero in his bill.

He proposes that $200,000 in excise taxes shall be reserved each fiscal year. This sum shall be deposited into an account established as the Division of Parks and Recreation Tourist Site Maintenance Revolving Fund to be expended solely by the director of the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Such fund, the bill says, shall not be reprogrammed for any other purpose. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Korean travel trade media, AM7 in NMI

Five media outlets in Korea have representatives in the Northern Mariana Islands this week to learn more about the allure of this beach resort destination that attracted over 100,000 Korea visitors last fiscal year.

Global Travel News, Korea Travel News, Korea Travel Times, and *Travel & Leisure* are all travel trade newspapers targeting travel agents, while AM7 is a free morning tabloid distributed at Korea's subways to the general public.

"We're pleased the media group will have time to cover both the Hell of the Marianas bike race [on] Saipan [today] and well as take an overnight trip to Tinian," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "For such a short visit, they are packing in a lot of coverage."

The group arrived on Wednesday, Nov. 30, and departs this afternoon. The MVA is supporting the familiarization tour by providing discounted airfares and assisting with ground handling and visa and film permit processing.

While on Tinian, the group will snorkel at a popular sea turtles-sighting spot, take an ATV tour of the island, and enjoy barbeque dinner on the beach across from the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, where they will lodge. On Saipan they will also enjoy snorkeling and parasailing at Managaha Island, the Las Vegas-style SandCastle Saipan dinner show, and a Sharing Seeds class at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, where they will lodge.

The Northern Marianas is expected to receive $30,000 worth of advertising coverage through the tour. The travel trade media have a combined circulation of 250,000, while AM7 tabloid reaches about 200,000 readers. ***(MVA)***

TAXES

From Page 1

taxes they currently pay the CNMI government.

Most Filipino and Korean workers are previously exempt from paying these federal social security taxes.

An IRS letter dated Oct. 5, 2011, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, mentioned Filipino workers only.

A separate document from a major accounting firm in the CNMI talked about Korean workers' social security coverage.

"Unless an individual is eligible for FICA exemption based on some other circumstances, FICA taxes will apply to these Filipino workers," said Lynne Camillo, branch chief of IRS's Employment Tax Branch 2, in an Oct. 5 letter outlining changes to the way Social Security taxes are applied to Filipino workers in the CNMI.

Filipinos and Koreans in Commonwealth-only worker, or CW, status do not meet the eligibility criteria for a U.S. H-2 status.

For affected Filipino and Korean workers previously exempt from U.S. Social Security payroll tax, this latest development means an additional 5.65 percent deduction from their payroll for Social Security (4.20 percent) and Medicare (1.45 percent), said a Filipino accountant in the CNMI for 15 years.

Deloitte & Touche LLP, through Joe M. Arnett, tax partner-in-charge for Guam/Micronesia, issued a statement yesterday based on the IRS letter.

"Based upon the opinions expressed in her [IRS' Lynne Camillo] letter, after Nov. 27, 2011, Filipinos working in the CNMI will be subject to FICA tax withholding unless they hold a valid H-2 US Visa," said Deloitte & Touche.

Another accounting firm, Ernst & Young, has also advised its Korean clients about the application of FICA among most Korean workers in the CNMI.

In an interview yesterday, Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig said that while he has heard that some Filipinos in the CNMI favor paying U.S. Social Security taxes, others are not. He said he will have to consult with the Filipino community in the CNMI on the matter.

Right now, Macaraig said, Filipino workers have to follow the U.S. government's policy.

But he said if there is a push for affected Filipinos in the CNMI to retain exemption from the FICA tax, this will have to be taken up by the Philippine government with the United States government. Macaraig said they will further review this development related to immigration.

A Filipino accountant who has been in the CNMI for 15 years and has been petitioned for a CW status, said she favors being subject to U.S. Social Security, citing this as an "investment."

"I will have something to look forward to when I reach retirement," she said.

She said if an affected employee's social security deduction is 5.65 percent, the employer contribution will be 7.65 percent.

"Now, employers will have to remit those to IRS," the accountant said.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, when asked for comment, said "obviously, this has been much more important to employers in the CNMI than at IRS.

"Employers have requested information on the FICA issue from IRS and the Social Security Administration ever since the regulations governing CW-1 visa issuance were first printed. I personally received a request from a senior GAO official in the midst of preparing another economic report on the CNMI asking if I knew how Filipino contract employee FICA taxation would be handled after Nov. 28, 2011. Neither one of us knew what IRS surely knew back then," Pierce said.

INA and exemptions

Deloitte & Touche said the IRS letter explains that FICA—or social security taxes—"applies to wages paid by employers for employment in the CNMI. An exemption in the Internal Revenue Code applies to Filipinos working temporarily in Guam under section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (H-2 status)."

By reference to sections 601(c) and 606(b) of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States, services performed in the CNMI by Filipinos admitted to the CNMI as nonimmigrant workers were also exempt from FICA as a result of the Guam exemption.

This determination is based upon a provision in CNMI immigration law that also provided nonimmigrant status to working Filipinos.

The exemption (3 CMC section 4303(q)(8)(B)) was similar in practice to that of the U.S. H-2 status. Therefore, the exemption from FICA that applied to Filipinos working in Guam applied to nonimmigrant Filipinos admitted to the CNMI on CNMI visa.

However, with the enactment of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008—the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control—CNMI immigration laws no longer apply and the CNMI visa is no longer available to workers in the CNMI.

As the CNMI transitions to U.S. immigration law, a new status—the CW—was created for nonimmigrant workers who are ineligible for other employment-based nonimmigrant visa classifications.

"These workers do not meet the eligibility requirements for U.S. H-2 visas status. Because Filipino workers temporarily present in the CNMI under a CW classification do not hold an H-2 visa, they are no longer eligible for the FICA exemption previously extended to them," said Deloitte & Touche's Arnett.

GAO report

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, in a July 2011 report on the status of transition to federal immigration law, said that Social Security coverage for certain foreign workers in the CNMI is "unknown."

GAO, the investigative arm of Congress, was referring to certain Filipino and Korean workers and their employers with regard to the Social Security payroll tax.

It said data for 2009 from the CNMI Division of Revenue and Taxation show that workers from Korea and the Philippines totaled 12,406 and represented 75 percent of foreign workers, or 44 percent of all workers, in the CNMI.

GAO said that given the transition to federal immigration law, it is uncertain whether Filipino and Korean workers who obtain CNMI-only work permits will be covered by Social Security.

"If these workers are deemed to be covered, they and their employers will be subject to Social Security payroll taxes. The IRS and SSA will need to consider CNRA's impact on Filipino and Korean workers with regard to Social Security coverage," GAO said.

CRISIS

From Page 1

ing at moving the five containers at the Saipan port to Tinian if not this Sunday then on Monday," he said.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) called for a meeting yesterday morning with officials from Saipan Stevedore and the Commonwealth Ports Authority to help resolve the lack of stevedoring services on Tinian.

Hofschneider, chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation, said they're thankful for Tinian Marine Stevedore/Saipan Stevedore for stepping up in this time of need.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), one of the shareholders of the now closed Tinian Stevedore, said they tried to stay in business but the operational costs were just too high.

"If the business venture is no longer sustainable, there's no reason to maintain that business… Since we ceased operation on Oct. 31, I don't think there's been any stevedoring service on Tinian," he said.

HEALTHCARE

From Page 1

Care Innovative Challenge project, which is funded through President Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Act.

Sablan wrote the health corporation's chief executive officer, Juan N. Babauta, on Wednesday informing him about this funding opportunity that will help in the better delivery of services at the public hospital.

Sablan said the Health Care Innovation Challenge was launched last week, which will invest up to $1 billion in projects like hospitals, doctors, and others to achieve better health, improved care, and lower costs for beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Babauta was at a meeting yesterday when asked to comment on Sablan's letter.

"I wanted to bring this grant opportunity which is open to the U.S. insular areas to your attention," Sablan told Babauta in his letter, adding that preference will be given to those projects serving beneficiaries with the highest health care needs, projects that plan to hire, train, and deploy health care workers rapidly.

The healthcare corporation was allocated a seed money of $5 million for its operations under the fiscal year 2011 appropriation law. The board is now working on a $25-million budget plan for the organization's operations within this fiscal year—all depending on projected revenues that will be collected from hospital services. Funding constraints have been adversely affecting the delivery of care at the Commonwealth Health Center for many years.

Based on the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation website, the awards from the project will be announced in March 2012 and will range from approximately $1 million to $30 million for a three-year period.

Applications are open to providers, local government, public-government partnerships, and multi-payer collaboratives. Those interested are invited to propose models that provide innovative approaches to improving care and lowering costs for high risk/high opportunity patient populations.

The Challenge also encourages applicants to include new models of workforce development and deployment that efficiently support their service delivery model proposal. The enhanced infrastructure to support more cost-effective systemwide function is also a critical component of health care system transformation, and applicants are encouraged to include this as an element of their proposals.

The deadline for the letter of intent to apply is on Dec. 19, 2011, while the applications are due on Jan. 27, 2012.

Russian familarization tour good for NMI on Russian TV

Far East Russia TV recently visited the Northern Mariana Islands to produce a television segment about this island resort destination for its two million viewers. Last fiscal year, over 5,000 Russians visited the islands.

The four-person media group visited Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during their visit, stopping by popular locales such as the award-winning snorkeling islet Managaha, world-class gaming at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, and the eco-tourism lure of Rota.

The TV station will produce a segment that will air over the next six months, bringing the islands $250,000 worth of advertising exposure.

The Marianas Visitors Authority supported the familiarization tour by assisting with permitting and a language-specific escort.

"The MVA continues to capitalize on media opportunities by extending in-kind assistance in exchange for media coverage," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "With growing competition for the Russian traveler, we need to maximize coverage in order to continue growing this market."

The media crew took a sunset dinner cruse, participated in banana boating and parasailing, had dinner at Capricciosa, took island tours on all three islands, filmed golf and a wedding, took in the SandCastle Saipan dinner show, took a monster truck and ATV tour, went trolling, and took in a discovery flight. The crew also visited Mariana Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Saipan Grand Hotel, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Rota Resort.

The show's producer, Elena Yurkovskaya, said she was very impressed with the destination and vowed to return for further shooting on an all-new program. ***(MVA)***



MVA

Editor and producer Elena Yurkovskaya, third from right, led a crew from Far East Russian TV on a recent tour of the Northern Marianas and stopped by Pacific Islands Club Saipan on Nov. 4, 2011. From left are Jing Bordon of the Visitors Channel, Marketing Specialist Tatiana Babauta of the Marianas Visitors Authority, director/presenter Olga Gidalevich, MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman, Yurkovskaya, assistant cameraman Bronislav Reznik, and cameraman Evgenii Gidalevich. Kneeling at front are Loulia Safer and Elli Stoilova of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Inos now oversees renewable energy matters

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial gave Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos full authority to oversee and direct all activities related to the implementation of renewable-based energy production in the CNMI.

Inos has been acting governor since Wednesday when Fitial left for Hong Kong on personal leave.

Two days prior to his off-island trip, Fitial gave Inos additional duties besides being his lieutenant governor and having authority over government finances. Inos is a former Finance secretary.

"I have special trust and confidence in Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos to lead our efforts to make renewable-based energy production a reality," the governor said in a Nov. 28 designation of authority.

Fitial, whose administration has been pushing for renewable energy production in the CNMI, said present utility rates are harming CNMI residents and crippling the islands' ability to attract new investments and new jobs.

He added that diesel-based electrical power production is harmful to the environment, expensive, a challenge to maintain, and not sustainable for the long-term benefit of the CNMI.

Fitial said technology exists to transform the Commonwealth to renewable-based energy production, and the Office of the Governor is appropriate to lead efforts to bring renewable-based energy production to the CNMI.

The governor also said production of at least 20 percent of CNMI energy needs to occur within a two-year period.

Lastly, the governor directed all members of his administration to assist Inos as he assumes additional duties related to renewable energy production.

Women veterans get their due at VA

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is now putting "major emphasis" on women veterans, a group where the agency "failed in the past," according to Dr. James E. Hastings.



Hastings

Hastings, director of the VA Pacific Islands Health Care System, said in an interview that the VA is now recognizing its obligation to take care of the special needs of women veterans.

"What I can tell you is that all VA facilities are making a major effort to recognize the fact that they need to increase the services that they're offering women veterans," Hastings told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hastings came to Saipan last month for a town hall meet attended by veterans and their family members on Nov. 16 at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater in Garapan.

During his brief visit, Hastings was joined by VA Pacific Islands Health Care System's Andrew Dahlburg, Craig Oswald, and Michael C. Soucie.

Hastings, who also chairs the Department of Medicine at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, said part of the VA's efforts to make women "feel comfortable" and "taken care of" when going into VA facilities is offering mammography services for these women veterans.

According to Hastings, the nature of military is now "changing," with about 15 percent of the deployed force are women.

"We're generating more female veterans now faster than we ever have before. I'm not sure the VA is ready for it but we're trying very, very hard to do it but it's a culture change for us," said Hastings.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. BOX 506296, SAIPAN, MP 95950; TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 FAX: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2012 First General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, December 06, 2011 at the Caladium Hall, LaoLao Bay & Golf Resort at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Roll Call
II. Adoption of Agenda
III. Review and adoption of September 09, 2011 Minutes
IV. Reports
- CLI Director
- OVR Director
- Chairman

V. Old Business
- Pending Training on Four Core Services
- SILC By-Laws/Membership Composition
- Accessible Transportation Issues

VI. New Business
- Joint Public Forum with partner agencies
- Recommendation for CIL activities
- SILC Congress Update Report

VII. Consumer Forum
- TSA Airport Security Presentation

VIII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Elvira Seman (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Facebook, the FTC and privacy

The day after news leaked about Facebook's plans for a blockbuster initial stock offering, the Federal Trade Commission announced a proposed consent order that would rein in the social network's freewheeling approach to its users' personal information. The order reiterates an important principle that has been guiding the commission's approach to online privacy: Consumers, not Facebook, get to decide how their personal information will be shared online.

Facebook's approach to privacy has improved over the years, but it's still capable of egregious missteps. One example is its decision in 2009 to make all the profile photos users had uploaded public, even if they had previously instructed Facebook to limit access to them.

Although the company admits no wrongdoing, the tentative settlement would impose a series of requirements on Facebook that should give users more control over the personal information they've shared with friends and acquaintances online. Technology changes so rapidly that regulators risk deterring companies and competitors from innovating their way to better privacy controls. The requirements imposed by the proposed order avoid that problem by setting standards for Facebook to meet, not prescribing methods for how to do so.

One of the order's mandates would require Facebook to stop misleading users about the information it disclosed to third parties. Another would bar Facebook from disclosing any "nonpublic" information—anything that a user had told Facebook not to reveal to the entire Internet—until it obtained the user's permission. A third would force Facebook to submit independent audit reports on its privacy controls for 20 years—a burden that should help persuade other online companies to voluntarily follow the order's privacy blueprint.

These are important steps, and consistent with the approach the commission took with the Google Buzz social network. The message, again, is that users don't automatically give online companies carte blanche to use personal information just because they posted it online. The commission expressed that most clearly when it required Facebook to stop giving third parties access to information that users thought they had deleted or profiles they had terminated. That Facebook wasn't doing so already suggests that, no matter how many times Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg says "everyone needs complete control over who they share with at all times," he doesn't really understand what that means.

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God and man and William F. Buckley

By CARL T. BOGUS
Los Angeles Times

Carl T. Bogus, a professor of law at Roger Williams University, is the author of William F. Buckley Jr. and the Rise of American Conservatism. *He wrote this for the* Los Angeles Times.



The modern conservative movement began 60 years ago with the publication of a book by a 26-year-old first-time author. Reflecting on that work teaches us something important about the nature and trajectory of modern conservatism, about the energy that propelled the movement and about serious problems with the movement today.

The book was *God and Man at Yale*. The author was William F. Buckley Jr.

"GAMAY" (as conservatives often call this iconic work) was an attack on the young author's alma mater. Buckley excoriated Yale for two things:

First, he complained that Yale's economics instructors were not indoctrinating their students in a pure version of laissez-faire economics. Buckley claimed that less than half of the economics department advocated that ideology, which Buckley called "individualism." The rest were Keynesians who advocated some governmental regulation of the economy, and therefore as Buckley saw it, economics training at Yale was "thoroughly collectivist."

The term collectivist still has bite today, but when "GAMAY" was published it had a menacing connotation. Collectivism was associated with totalitarian regimes and their rulers: Josef Stalin of the Soviet Union and Mao Tse-tung of China, whose forces were killing American soldiers in Korea. Moreover, some on the right were ominously warning that even if the American military successfully defended the ramparts of freedom abroad, Keynesian economic theories would lead America down a slippery slope into collectivism at home.

Second, Buckley argued that although Yale's religion department was academically "everything one could wish" for, it was failing to "proselytize the Christian faith." One course, though taught by a Christian, was a "completely non-dogmatic examination of the philosophies of religion." Another religion professor, who was also an ordained minister, kept "his convictions largely to himself." Buckley found this unacceptable.

What was leading Yale astray? The problem was the university's mistaken belief in academic freedom. Buckley argued that academic freedom was a myth. Yale would surely dismiss any faculty member who advocated racist or anti-Semitic views, and a recent president of Yale had declared that the university would not "knowingly hire a communist." Yet Yale foolishly failed to demand that its faculty promote individualism and Christianity.

In "GAMAY's" preface, Buckley wrote his two most historically important sentences. "I myself believe," he declared, "that the duel between Christianity and atheism is the most important in the world. I further believe that the struggle between individualism and collectivism is the same struggle reproduced on another level."

Thus did Buckley conflate economics and religion. The world was engaged in an existential struggle between good and evil, and purity in Christianity and laissez-faire economics were essentially intertwined and part of the good. As Buckley saw it, John Maynard Keynes was not merely incorrect in arguing that some governmental regulation of the economy was desirable. He was leading the West down a path to perdition.

One cannot understand the modern conservative movement without appreciating this sentiment. That is what it is—a sentiment—rather than an articulated argument. But sentiments are more powerful than logic or analysis.

From its origins in 1951, the conservative movement has perceived itself not essentially as an advocate for a more effective political philosophy but as a bulwark against evil. Though many liberals may be naive rather than malevolent, they are nonetheless leading America into something foul and wicked.

It is this sentiment that has imbued the modern conservative movement with so much fervor. It is what motivates the bombast of Rush Limbaugh and many imitators. It is why Ann Coulter books are titled "Treason," "High Crimes and Misdemeanors," "Guilty: Liberal 'Victims' and Their Assault on America" and "Demonic."

The sentiment also explains why so many Republican presidential candidates do not believe in evolution. Many on the right equate Christianity with conservatism, and demand purity in both.

Beyond their Mormonism (and Mitt Romney's flip-flops), this is the sentiment (or lack thereof) that separates Jon Huntsman Jr. and Romney from the rest of the Republican field. Huntsman and Romney do not exude the fervor of crusaders, and when periodically they try to do so, they appear inauthentic.

The crusading sentiment made more sense during the Cold War, when America faced a truly collectivist, atheistic and nuclear-armed adversary. It is becoming increasingly discordant with the times, and that is why some Republican candidates with considerable support strike non-conservatives as weird.

It is paradoxical that William F. Buckley Jr.—who, more than any other individual, infused the conservative movement with the sentiment of battling evil—enjoyed warm relationships with liberals such as John Kenneth Galbraith, Murray Kempton, Allard Lowenstein and George McGovern. Buckley was a crusader, but he was also a person of great and essential goodwill.

That should be Buckley's greatest lesson to all of us, whether on the right or the left. If there is something that can save us—from our own excesses, our own foolishness, even our own brilliance—it is essential goodwill.

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Politics: Can you smell the coffee?



By KELLY CANDAELE
Los Angeles Times

Kelly Candaele is an adjunct professor of communications at Cal State Chico. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Wake up, America, you are being exploited, duped and brainwashed. Though political analysts—left and right—differ on their prescriptions on how to save America from decline, there is one thing they seem to agree on: The vast majority of Americans spend most of their lives politically asleep.

Crossroads GPS, an advocacy group founded by Republican operative Karl Rove, recently produced a commercial called "Wake Up," an anti-Obama attack ad that portrays a woman tossing and turning in the middle of the night who then sits up and reflects on how her faith in President Barack Obama has been betrayed. Obama, the ad implies, is doing things in the White House that disturb what otherwise would be a restful sleep.

At a rally against poverty last month, Princeton professor and political activist Cornel West told a Los Angeles audience, referring to the Occupy movement: "Finally our fellow citizens are beginning to wake up because they have been sleepwalking for so long.

"Are we going to remain awake?" West asked.

There also is a long tradition in American political history of attributing voting behavior, lack of worker militancy or acquiescence in the face of socialist takeover—choose your problem—to the somnolent state of the American citizenry. If you only knew the truth about what is really going on in this country, these critics argue, you would rise up and overthrow the corporate capitalists, the left-wing radicals inside the government or the various false brothers of the "ruling elite."

In 1854, on the title page of "Walden," Henry David Thoreau bragged that he wanted to "wake my neighbors up" with the power of his observations and actions. And here is Socialist Party leader Eugene Debs writing in a party newspaper in 1903: "Workingmen, wake up! The time has come to open your eyes and see things as they are. You have been hoodwinked and robbed and enslaved long enough." Debs ran for the presidency five times, waking up the 6 percent of voters in 1912 who gave him their support.

There are countless other examples of this type of rhetoric—and the analytical frame of mind that goes with it—being used to provoke what is presumed to be the apathetic masses. If people are aroused from their slumber and get active, this thinking goes, they can become "agents" of their own history.

There are several problems with believing that the vast majority of Americans are essentially asleep. Whatever the reality behind this image, regarding people as essentially passive recipients of elite manipulation assumes that most of us are simply unable to perceive and thereby act on our own self-interest. Not only is this belief condescending, it suggests that our political, social and symbolic worlds are unified and simple, if we would only "open our eyes" to that fact.

If a structured and orchestrated "system" is oppressing or manipulating us, then revealing the nature of that system is the first step toward freedom. In terms of popular culture, think of the movie "The Matrix," in which those who were brave were provided a pill that revealed the hidden nature of the reality surrounding them. In the religious context, consider the dominant themes in which the grace of God or the movement toward enlightenment awakens adherents to the illusory nature of mundane experience.

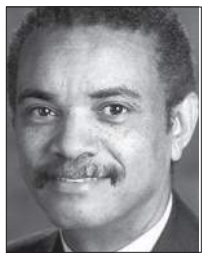
There is a tinge of paranoia in these beliefs, the idea that only those with access to esoteric knowledge can know "what's really going on." And as psychoanalyst Adam Phillips points out, paranoia is the self-cure for insignificance, a psychic strategy for assuaging an inner doubt that we might not really matter.

It is the analytical and political hubris contained in this stance that is the problem. If we are asleep, then it is the responsibility of Rove, Debs, West or Lululemon founder Chip Wilson—the ones who are presumably awake—to wipe the political sleep from our eyes.

But my sense is that people live their lives as best they can, sorting through the complex claims on their time, their values and their obligations to families and communities. We weigh the costs of action in the political world against the satisfactions and disappointments of working through the dynamics of everyday life. We live, as historian Aileen Kraditor suggests, within complex and disorderly societies, not within all-encompassing systems.

This election year, we will undoubtedly hear from many people who suggest we wake up and realize the state we're in. Some of these people might even be candidates. When they do, you might consider this response: "I'm awake, thank you very much—and feeling grumpy."

JFK's hope, LBJ's determination changed America



By BOB RAY SANDERS
McClatchy Newspapers

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

This time of year, around the anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, my thoughts turn to the slain leader and a time when our country was enduring such agonizing turmoil and undergoing remarkable change simultaneously.

As I expressed in my oral history on file at the Sixth Floor Museum in Dallas, Kennedy was the personification of hope for people like me who long had been denied America's promise of "liberty and justice for all."

It is during this period that I most reflect on the civil rights movement, give thanks for the heroes who gave their lives for my deliverance, pause in honor of brave men and women who risked their political careers for the right cause and pray for a country that I sometimes think would rather move backward than forward.

My seasonal ritual also usually includes a visit to the grave of Lee Harvey Oswald — why, I'm not really sure.

It's not out of reverence for him, but probably more out of deference to his tormented mother who, until shortly before her death, always treated me with the utmost respect.

But more often than not when I think of that moment in American history, my mind focuses on that fellow Texan who was sworn in as president aboard Air Force One after Kennedy's death.

Lyndon Johnson, who was Senate majority leader before being selected as Kennedy's running mate in 1960, was an enigma for many in the country who understood his deft command of power but sometimes questioned his intelligence, sense of loyalty and commitment to civil rights.

The other day my memories of Johnson's legacy were reignited when I came across a copy of a magazine I kept for decades.

It was the Dec. 14, 1963, edition of The Saturday Evening Post.

In it was a thoughtful, meticulous analysis by Post writer Stewart Alsop that was titled, "The New President," with an overline that read: "An extraordinarily complex man — proud, tough, shrewd — he will be master in his house."

Alsop, in what had to have been a short time to collect his thoughts before publishing, really captured Johnson, the political climate of the country and what had been an evolving relationship between the new president and his predecessor.

Looking back, I still see the piece as historically accurate and absent any obvious or distorted bias of an opinionated writer.

Alsop begins by describing a scene in Kennedy's Senate office as the young senator ate lunch and talked about his potential rivals for the highest office in the land.

This was long before he announced his candidacy for president.

The author quotes Kennedy: "'I know all the other candidates pretty well,' he said, 'and I frankly think I'm as able to handle the Presidency as any of them, or abler — all except Lyndon, and he hasn't got a chance.'"

In the next paragraph, Alsop describes Johnson as "an extraordinarily complicated and remarkably fascinating human being — proud, excessively vain and oddly humble; tough as a whole hogshead of nails and sentimental to the point of corniness; long-headed, shrewd, even foxy, and yet in some respects surprisingly naive; rude and amazingly sensitive; a tough, time-battered politician who is still in part a boy."

After becoming president, Johnson would use most of those sometimes-paradoxical qualities to lead the country into a new day, helping to sculpt an amazing transformation.

He championed the nation's most comprehensive civil rights legislation since passage of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution, and his "social agenda" — from Head Start to Medicare — brought sweeping change that still affects millions of Americans to this day.

Kennedy brought us hope of a better tomorrow; Johnson actually ushered it in.

We should give thanks to them both.

And, unlike in seasons past when I constantly complained that Fort Worth had not built a fitting memorial to Kennedy, I take solace in the fact that by this time next year there will be a spectacular monument to the president's life on the downtown site where he spoke outside to a large crowd in the early morning of Nov. 22, 1963.

Sadly, it took 48 years to do that.

I hereby announce my candidacy...



By DANIEL AKST
Newsday

Daniel Akst, a columnist for Newsday, *is the author of* We Have Met the Enemy: Self-Control in an Age of Excess *from Penguin Press.*

Like many authors, I've tried everything to generate book sales, but apparently I just can't write well enough for critical acclaim or badly enough for lowbrow popularity.

That's why I've decided to run for president.

Look, what sells books these days is celebrity, and running has brought valuable attention to a host of authors who are no more deserving than yours truly. The presidential race has made everyone aware of Herman Cain, after all, and forced all of us to remember Newt Gingrich, no matter how desperately we may wish those memories had remained suppressed. Even Donald Trump ran briefly, enjoying the spotlight for a while and generously elevating the campaign with his unique brand of class.

But unlike some other candidates, I make no pretense about my poor prospects for election, or knowing which side we were on in Libya, or what federal agencies I've promised to close. I just need to get famous, fast.

And I'm a coward. The only real alternative—marrying Kim Kardashian in a storybook wedding—is far scarier than the ordeal of seeking the nation's highest office. Sorry Kim, but I'll take trial by fire any day! Now that I'm a serious candidate, of course, I have to do everything I can to be an unserious person. So rest assured that I plan to cut your federal income taxes—unless of course you're too poor to pay any, in which case I'll raise them.

But really, who needs taxes? It's your money; keep it! Unlike the other candidates, with their piddling budget-cutting proposals, I plan to tackle the monster of government spending head on. I'll slash federal spending right down to zero in my first year in office, except of course for subsidies to agribusiness, big oil and the financial services industry.

Oh, and I guess we'll still need a few bucks to prosecute Ben Bernanke for printing all that money over at the Fed. We'll also need to pay a lawyer to retry the Scopes case—you know, the one in which Spencer Tracy made a monkey out of Fredric March. In fact, forget everything I've said in the past about evolution, climate change, abortion, gravity and the multiplication tables.

They're all just theories, bad ones at that, and I reject every last one of them. I won't vacillate around the subject of sex, either. Come to think of it, I oppose vacillation in all its forms, whether against the human papillomavirus or anything else that causes disease.

In a free country, people should be allowed to choose for themselves whether their children are vacillated. Someone just told me that vacillation can cause mental retardation, and I believe it. Has anyone checked whether any of my opponents has been vacillated lately?

Anyway, back to sex. There won't be any such hanky-panky in my administration, and as president I pledge to limit my activities in this arena to sexual harassment, as I've always done in the past. Sexual harassment was good enough for Bill Clinton, after all, and he was a pretty successful politician. I won't shirk immigration when I get to Washington. While my opponents have talked of walls and moats and the like to keep out Mexicans, I believe American technology can do the job much more effectively. My administration will use land mines.

And there won't be any speculation as to who my vice president will be, because I'm announcing my running mate—Jesus—here and now. There, that ought to sell a few books. And if it doesn't, I suppose there's always Kim Kardashian.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly sunny and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

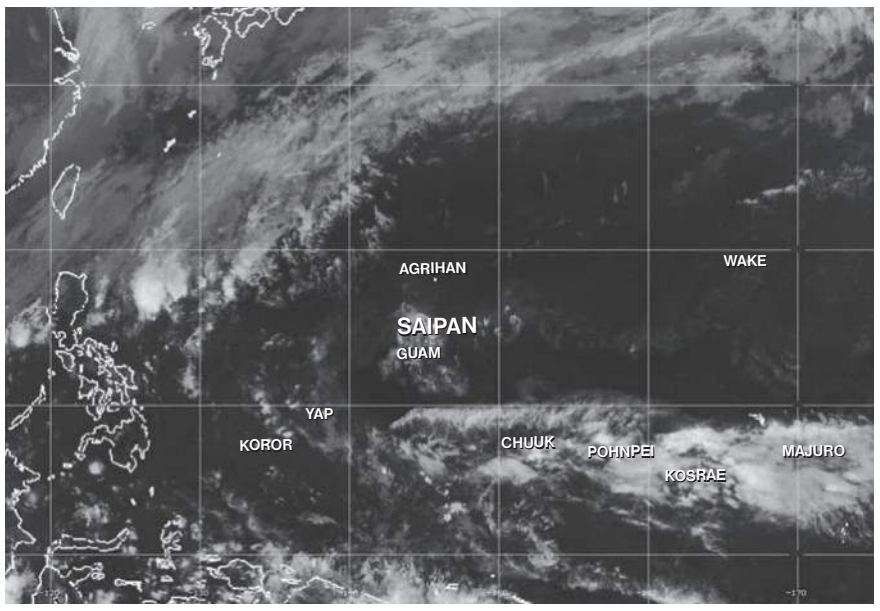
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲40	▼22
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼62
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲48	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲63	▼41
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼37
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲56	▼48
Paris	Showers	▲51	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲53	▼39
Rome	Showers	▲63	▼54
Salem	Sunny	▲48	▼32
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼44
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲43	▼32
Tokyo	Sunny	▲58	▼44
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Converging southeast winds associated with low pressure northeast of Okinawa are causing cloudiness. Patchy rain and a few thunderstorms northwest of a line from 14N130E to 25N140E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae mainly between 5N and 9N from 145E to 165E. The leading edge of a trade-wind disturbance extends from 8N164E to 2N169E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms eastward from the edge across the Marshall Islands to the date line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:06 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet
7:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
2:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
9:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Sunday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM
Monday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:40 PM	12:16 AM
Sunday	1:16 PM	1:03 AM
Monday	1:53 PM	1:50 AM
Tuesday	2:31 PM	2:37 AM
Wednesday	3:11 PM	3:25 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5	C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5	C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C05070	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP	C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily	C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6	C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6	C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
				C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM	C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau				
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am	1, 5 via GUM	C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am	3, 6 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/179	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN				

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am Chamorro, 9am English, 11am Filipino and 6pm English
Monday-Saturday: 6am Chamorro
Wednesday: 6pm Chamorro
Parish office hours:
Monday-Saturday
8am-12pm, 12-1pm, 1-5pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm (PH Novena 5:45pm)
Friday: 5:30pm praying of Divine Mercy Chaplet; 6pm devotional mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
Saturday: 6am and 6pm (anticipated)
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am 6pm Tagalog mass
Parish office hours: (Fr. Celso G. Magbanua) Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8-11:30am/ 3-5:30pm, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm.
Telephone no. 285-0273

Santa Soledad Mission Parish
Monday: 6pm
Tuesday: 6pm
Wednesday: 6pm
Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm (Youth mass/ anticipated Sunday mass)
Sunday: 7am and 9am (Children's mass)
Parish office hours: Wednesday and Friday: 8-10am,
Saturday: 4-6pm
Telephone no. 256-4568

Saint Jude Parish
Monday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 7am
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Parish office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am, 3:30-5pm
Office is close every Thursday and Saturday
Telephone no. 288-0007

San Antonio Parish
Monday-Friday 6pm
Saturday: 6pm
Sunday: 7am, 9am (Blessing of children)
Parish office hours: Tuesday-Saturday: 8-11:30am, 2-4:45pm
Close on Sunday and Monday

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am Chamorro, 8am English
Monday and Tuesday:6am Chamorro
Wednesday:6pm English
Thursday: 6am Chamorro
Friday: 6am English
Saturday: 6am Chamorro, 6pm Tagalog
Sunday: anticipated mass

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am, 8am, 10am
Monday-Friday: 7pm
Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Monday- Saturday: 6am daily mass
Monday- Sunday: 3pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
Wednesday: 6pm, mass, exposition of the blessed sacrament
Saturday: 6pm, anticipated Sunday mass
Sunday: 7:30-9am English, 6pm Tagalog mass
Office hours: Monday-Wednesday: 9am-12pm, 2-5pm
Thursday: day off
Friday- Saturday: 8am-12pm, 2-5pm
Telephone no. 234-6991

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 7:30am Chamorro, 9am English
Monday: 6pm English
Tuesday: 6pm English
Wednesday: 6pm English- novena mass to our Lady of San Roque oil
Thursday: 6pm English
Friday: 6pm English- Devotion to the sacred heart of Jesus (First Fridays)
Saturday: 6am English- Our Lady's Saturday mass for the intentions of the Men and Women in military service, 6pm English- anticipated mass
Parish office hours: daily except Thursday and Sundays: 4:30-6pm
Telephone no. 322-2404, Fr. Bong's cell: 285-912, Diocesan Finance office: 234-3000 ext.143

San Vicente Parish
Monday-Friday: 6pm,
Saturday: 6pm (First Saturday of every month)
Sunday: 6am anticipated mass, 6pm (Neo Catechumenal community mass), 8pm
Sunday: 6am, 9am, 6pm
Parish office hours: daily 9-11am
Telephone no. 235-8208 or 287-0131

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 8am
Monday: 6pm (1st Mondays cemetery masses at 5:30pm)
Tuesday- Friday: 6pm
Saturday: 6pm-anticipated Sunday mass 8-10pm
Parish office hours: Monday- Friday: 8:30am-12pm

PROTESTANT

Amen Church
Sunday : 10am, 1pm, 5pm Wednesday : 7pm Friday Prayer : 9pm Bible Study : 4pm (Tue) Music Practice : 5pm (Sat) Korean class: 3:30pm (Thu) Visitation : 10am(Fri, Sat) Outreach : 8am (First Sat) Tel. No. 285-2121, 256-2221 Email : oseyo@daum.net

Born Again Christian
(Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm
Telephone no. 234-6026/27

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services:
Sunday: Chinese and Filipino 9am, English 6pm
Bible Study: Wednesday and Saturday 8pm
Telephone no. 235-8540

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Morning Service, Sunday, 10:00 am
Evening Service, Sunday, 6:00 pm
Children Sunday School, 10:00am/ 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting, Wednesday, 7-9 pm
Youth Night of Worship, Friday, 6:30 pm
As Perdido Road
Chalan Piao, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 235-8590
Email: cornerstone@cfemcares.org

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Garapan, Plumeria Road,
Call 285-6081 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 9-11am
Sunday school/ Children's church 9am (nursery available during Sunday service)
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: 6am Tuesday GCA Kagman, Wednesday Navy Hill, Thursday San Antonio
Home Cell Bible Study: 7pm (Through out the week)
Telephone no. 322-5680

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (English)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (Tagalog)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church
Chalan Kanoa Drive, Chalan Kanoa
(east of Town Center and Beach Road, Near Mt. Carmel Cathedral)
Worship Service: 9:00am
Children's Sunday School: 9:00am
Choir Practice: 8:00am
Singspiration: 8:30am
Prayer, Care & Share: Wednesday 7:00pm
Pastor: Millie Carroll 322-6158

Immanuel Methodist Church
(Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)
(Korean Congregation)
Sunday worship: 9am, 10:30, 1pm
Wednesday evening service: 8pm
Daily morning prayer: 5am

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
Sunday English Service: 7:30-9am,
Sunday Tagalog Service: 9-11am and 6-8pm,
Wednesday: 7:30-9pm

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9:20am
Sunday Adult: 11am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service: 10 am at Seventh Day Adventist church on Quartermaster Rd.
Wednesday Service: 7 pm at Fina Sisu Housing FS#1
Contact Nick for more info: 287-1661

Marianas Bible Fellowship Center
Sunday School: 9-9:30am
Divine Worship: 9:30-11am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th Watch)
Sunday worship 8:30am
Sunday evening 7:00pm
Prayer meeting, every Wednesday 7:30pm
San Jose village, after San Jose Hotel
Telephone: 789-7566

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 10-11am
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 6-7pm
Thursday Bible Study: 7pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church Koblerville
Sunday services:
Sunday school 9:00am
Morning worship 10:00am
Evening service 6:00pm
Wednesday evening bible study 7:00pm

Chinese services
Sunday morning 10:00am
Sunday evening 7:00pm

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church.
Telephone No: 285-4661/2

Thy Word Ministries Saipan
Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service
located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi

Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian
Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Victorious Christian Church
(Formerly God's Victorious Army)
Sunday 8:30am to 10:30am - Worship Service
Monday 7:00 pm - Women's Fellowship
Tuesday nights - Home cellgroup
Wednesday - 7:30pm to 9:00pm Mid Week Service
Friday 7:30pm to 9:00pm Prayer Meeting
Saturday nights - Praise and worship practice
Last Friday of the month - Overnight praying meeting
Pastor Brendon Perez - Tel# 2359246

Editor's Note: Information subject to change without prior notice. All information provided by the respective churches. If you want your church or religious activities included or to report changes and errors, call *Saipan Tribune* at 235-6397 or 235-2440 or email editor@saipantribune.com.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 3, 2001

MPLT, CDA sign loan deal for park improvement
The Commonwealth Development Authority and the Marianas Public Land Trust signed Friday a loan agreement and a promissory note that would release the $2 million loan assistance for the American Memorial Park Beautification Project. CDA Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio and MPLT Board Chair Juan S. Torres said the loan agreement is expected to fast-track the completion of the project, which is seen to add value to Saipan as a tour destination. The MPLT agreed to loan out $2 million to the CDA after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed legislation into law, appropriating funds for the design and construction of a visitor center, memorial garden, among others at the American Memorial Park.

Saipan health providers undergo training on high-tech heart care
Saying that heart disease remains the No. 1 killer in America, a medical team from Guam is on Saipan to train doctors and nurses from the Commonwealth Health Center and private clinics on technologically advanced methods regarding heart care. An education team from the Guam Memorial Hospital, headed by Dr. Vincent Dueñas, is conducting the Advanced Cardiac Life Support course. The first batch of participants took the two-day course last Friday and Saturday, while the second batch started with the workshop yesterday and is completing it today. "This educational outreach is made possible by the University of Washington Continuing Clinical Education Program Grant," said Therese M. Hart, Guam Memorial Hospital's acting administrator.

Dec. 3, 2002

Eased rules on paying poker fees passed
With the soft economy making inroads on poker machine revenues, the CNMI government has made it easier for poker arcade operators to pay their annual licensing fees. Instead of shelling out a license fee of $12,000 per machine in one fell swoop, poker arcade operators may now initially pay just a fourth of the total amount and spread out the rest through three equal installments to be paid every quarter. This came about after Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law House Bill 13-195, the measure that seeks to give poker machine operators more flexibility in paying their annual licensing fees.

DPW investigating delay in completion of Marpi landfill
Public Works Secretary Juan S. Reyes has tasked his department's construction management group to look into the real cause of anticipated delay in the completion of the Marpi landfill project. Reyes said the department may withhold remaining payment to the consortium of Dick Pacific Corporation and Pacific Drilling Ltd. if the probe reveals that the reason for the anticipated failure to meet the facility's completion deadline was unsubstantiated or non-meritorious. The secretary underscored the need to complete the Marpi landfill by the contract deadline on December 29, noting that the Puerto Rico dumpsite has already been filled to maximum capacity.

Dec. 3, 2003

'New member's entry to CUC board questionable'
Although he is scheduled to be sworn in tomorrow, the entry of Tinian's Allen Perez to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Board remains uncertain for his "failure to win confirmation" within 90 days following his appointment, based on a 1992 legal opinion issued by then Senate legal counsel Pam Brown. The opinion, dated April 27, 1992 and issued by Brown-whose confirmation to the Attorney General post is also being contested-ruled that the Senate cannot entertain "renomination" of any person previously "nominated" by the governor "but who was either rejected outright or failed to win confirmation."

Senators' suspension cut by 15 days
The five-member Senate majority adopted a resolution yesterday shortening by 15 days the suspension imposed on minority members Pete P. Reyes, Ramon S. Guerrero, Thomas P. Villagomez and David M. Cing. The adoption of Senate Resolution 13-82 during a Tinian session rendered what was supposed to be a 30-day suspension over by Dec. 1, Monday. Senate President Paul A. Manglona said the move to lift the suspension earlier than expected was in line with the governor's call for unity in the upper chamber, as well as the common sentiment of the majority members.

Maharlika

Consulate sees spike in passport renewals

» Increased number also seen in OWWA and marriage applications

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nearly half the passports issued by the Philippine Consulate General as of November 2011 were applied between the release of the Commonwealth-only transitional worker rule and the expiration of umbrella permits.

Consulate records show that of the 3,611 passports issued from January to Nov. 30, 2011, a total of 1,799 were issued from Sept. 7 to Nov. 27.

The number of passports for September posted the highest at 779, followed by 689 for October and 331 as of Nov. 27.

Records also showed that the number of passports issued spiked in March, which was the scheduled Rota mobile consular services.

"The numbers show that a lot of the Filipinos in the CNMI were preparing for CW petitions, H1/H2 and other visa applications, and also for possible repatriation," Consul General Medardo Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Macaraig noted the increase even in the number of those who availed of other consular services such as marriage applications because of the requirement to be legally married to enable a foreign worker to petition a spouse or child for CW-2 status; membership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; and requests for repatriation and legal assistance.

Since the release of the final worker rule, the Consulate has already repatriated 13 Filipinos, 15 have yet to be booked for a flight, another 15 are waiting for repatriation funding approval, while seven have yet to officially withdraw through writing their repatriation assistance requests, said Macaraig.

"I'm confident that most of the Filipinos here in the CNMI already have valid passports," he added.

The Consul General noted, however, that they don't expect to see an increase in the number of passport applications by 2012 since scores of Filipinos in the Commonwealth are leaving the islands for good.

Macaraig said the Consulate does not have any records on the number of Filipinos who have left the CNMI since the release of the final worker rule in September.



FRIENDLY MATCH AP

Landon Donovan, third from right, of the LA Galaxy FC, and Aly Borromeo, fourth from right, team captain of the Philippine Azkals, display their respective jerseys prior to exchanging them shortly after a news conference Thursday Dec. 1, 2011 at a hotel at the financial district of Makati city east of Manila, Philippines. Looking on are from right, Bruce Arena, LA Galaxy coach, David Beckham also of the LA Galaxy, and the Azkals players Chieffy Caligdong, second from left, James Younghusband, third from left, Phil Younghusband, fifth from left, and Azkals team manager Dan Stephen Palami, fourth from left, and Nonong Araneta, left, President of the Philippine Football Federation. The LA Galaxy team and the Azkals are to play a friendly match Saturday.

Consul welcomes USCIS decision on parole

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said yesterday that the decision of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to consider granting parole to certain groups of people so they could lawfully remain in the CNMI is a welcome development that would allow those who are affected to plan for their future.

"We welcome Kilili's initiative and the arrangement that the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services have made," Macaraig told *Saipan Tribune*. "This will give time for these people to look for jobs. After all, the time frame between the release of the rule and the Nov. 27 deadline is short."

USCIS announced on Thanksgiving that it will consider granting parole until Dec. 31, 2012 to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals in the CNMI on a case-by-case basis.

The parole will allow individuals who are lawfully present in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011, to maintain legal status in the CNMI beyond that date.

"While it won't allow them to work, it will allow them to plan for their livelihood and their future," said Macaraig, who was in Manila on a personal business when the announcement was made.

The announcement, Macaraig said, is particularly significant for those Filipinos who have minor U.S. citizen children that are already in school and will not be given any time "to adjust" if they are sent to the Philippines.

"The children may lose one year of their lives if you uproot them from their schools or their lives here in the CNMI in general. I feel sorry for them. What will happen to them? Remember, these are U.S. citizen children," he noted.

Macaraig appealed "to all sides" to understand the situation in the Commonwealth. "The conditions here are unique. There's no model for us to base our actions."

He added that Filipino workers who have been staying in the CNMI for several years have already been assimilated to the island culture and society and should be afforded "a little more time to adjust."

2011 *Paskong Pinoy* heads to the Paseo de Marianas

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Filipino Organization, the umbrella organization of some 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI, has found a new home for its annual *Paskong Pinoy* event.

UFO president Bong Malasarte said in an interview that the 2011 *Paskong Pinoy* will be held for the first time at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan on Dec. 17, from 4pm to 10pm.

"We wanted to have a new venue for the annual Christmas event for *Pinoys* on island and so we thought of hosting it at Paseo de Marianas to showcase the rich Filipino culture and traditions not only for our *kababayans* and the rest of the community but also to the tourists," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Malasarte said the Paseo de Marianas has been the site of cultural celebrations of different ethnic groups in the community such as the Chinese and the Japanese, encouraging them to do the same.

He disclosed that one of the strong supporters of UFO, Tan Holdings, also invited them to have the *Paskong Pinoy* celebration at Paseo de Marianas, which attracts many tourists for its strategic location.

UFO adviser Olive Yana, a former president of the organizations, said this year's event will feature the familiar cultural presentations of various Filipino performing groups as well as exciting competitions like the choral and individual singing contest, Christmas lantern contests, and other fun games for the children.

Yana, program co-chair for the 2011 celebration, is inviting individual and group performers, food and non-food vendors, and prospective sponsors to take part in this year's *Paskong Pinoy* to "make the occasion more memorable and joyful" for Filipinos in the CNMI.

"We are encouraging the public, especially the Filipino community, to support *Paskong Pinoy* and show how proud we are of our heritage and to have an unforgettable Christmas celebration even though we're miles away from our country," added Malasarte.

For more information about the program, call Olive Yana at 285-7893; for interested vendors, call Paul Madriaga at 287-4501 or Annamae Adaza at 483-5237.

Free health screening for OFWs tomorrow

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General announced that the 4th Quarter 2011 "Free Health Screening for OFWs" will be held tomorrow, Dec. 4, at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Registration for the event will begin at 6:30am and the actual screening will be held from 7am to noon. This will be the last health screening for the year.

The free health screening program is conducted by the Consulate, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association, Hardt Eye Clinic, and other volunteers from the Filipino community.

Medical services to be provided are blood pressure, blood sugar, and eye vision checkups.

Those who want to avail of the blood sugar level checkup should refrain from taking solid and liquid food from midnight prior to actual testing until after blood samples are taken at the health screening.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said the program aims to increase the level of awareness on diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention, and eye/vision pressure correction among Filipino workers on island.

"Through this project, the Philippine Consulate General hopes to reach more and serve even if in a modest way, the medical needs, while fostering the spirit of volunteerism in the true spirit of Filipino *bayanihan* [on] Saipan," said Macaraig.

The last time a free health screening was conducted by the Consulate was on Sept. 4, during which 387 Filipino workers were served, 316 of whom had their blood sugar and blood pressure levels checked, and 17 were eye patients.

Those who want to avail of other consular services, including overseas absentee voters registration/certification, can proceed to the Consulate office at the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, which will remain open for the duration of the free health screening.

For more information, call 234-1850.

Aquino: PH still stable despite global economic uncertainties

President Benigno S. Aquino III said Thursday that while the country's third quarter gross domestic product growth was slower than expected, the Philippines remains stable and investors continue to put their money in the country.

The Japanese production shortfall following major disasters, the Middle East instability, the eurozone crisis, and the American slowdown have affected the Philippines economically, the President said in an interview at the Palace Thursday morning.

The President said the stimulus package that he announced recently is meant to ameliorate all of the effects brought about by what has been happening in the world economy.

The country is still lucky because while many countries received downgrades from leading ratings agencies, the Philippines has been upgraded, which means good financial stewardship of the present government.

"Paalala lang po: habang na-downgrade *ang maraming bansa, na*-upgrade *naman po tayo ng mga* ratings agencies, but we don't exist in a vacuum. Part of our production is tied in the world economy (Just a reminder: we have been upgraded by rating agencies while numerous countries are downgraded, but we don't exist in a vacuum. Part of our production is tied in the world economy)," the President said.

Asked by reporters about the need to augment the P72-billion stimulus package because of the deepening euro crisis and the continuing U.S. slowdown, the President said his administration hopes to do that and marches toward that goal.

For instance, the Department of Education made substantial improvements in putting up more classrooms and it is very close to meeting its target for this year, he said. Hopefully that will lay the basis for an expanded school-building program for next year, he added.

Infrastructure spending by the Department of Public Works and Highways is also good, the President said adding that the department now has safeguards to prevent leakages.

"So we did not spend unwisely, I think we spent wisely and we'll have more acceleration in the second semester," he said referring to infrastructure spending.

Early this week, the National Economic and Development Authority announced that the country's third quarter GDP grew by 3.2 percent.

Although it doesn't include the P72-billion stimulus package announced by the President, the growth figure is below the projected 3.8 to 4.8 percent target by the government. ***(Philippine Embassy Press Office)***

Outstanding OFWs get Bagong Bayani awards

By NORMAN BORDADORA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

An educator who helped bring to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries the professional board examinations for mechanical engineers received the highest award for an overseas Filipino worker at ceremonies Thursday in Malacañang.

President Benigno Aquino III led the awarding rites for the country's outstanding overseas Filipino workers. Among the awardees were seafarers who kept their vessels afloat during Japan's 9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami of March 11, and caregivers who showed "heroism and loyalty" in the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

The Bagong Bayani Foundation Inc. conferred the "Blas F. Ople Award para sa Natatanging Bayani" on Eduardo Parra Malagapo for "his outstanding achievement in the field of education and his tireless involvement in various socio-civic activities and humanitarian services for fellow Filipinos abroad."

"(Malagapo) was instrumental in bringing to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries the professional board examinations for mechanical engineers, which has considerably contributed to the professional growth of our mechanical engineers in that part of the world," said BBFI vice president Rene Cristobal, the master of ceremonies.

Cited as outstanding employees were the Filipino crew members of MT Diamond Champ and MT Nichichiko for "risking their lives keeping their ships afloat during the destructive earthquake and tsunami that" hit Sendai City in northeast Japan.

"Faced with imminent danger, their heroism and competence as seafarers saved precious lives and properties and averted potential environmental disaster that would result from oil spills," Cristobal said.



PDI

President Aquino shares the stage with the winners of the 2011 Bagong Bayani Awards in Malacañang on Thursday. The Bagong Bayani Awards is a private sector-led national search for the country's outstanding and exemplary overseas Filipino workers.

Also cited were the Filipino seafarers on MV South Islander for their rescue of 27 crew members of Daichi Shoei Maru No. 1, a fishing boat, which caught fire in the Pacific Ocean in April.

Caregivers

Among those awarded the Bagong Bayani Award for community and social service were caregivers Mercedes Joie Aquino, Sandra Otacan, Gemma Juanay and Juliet Copatan.

"Despite the danger and risk of exposure to nuclear radiation during the earthquake and tsunami calamity that rocked Fukushima in March this year, (they) elected to remain in their jobs and continued to provide care and companionship to their Japanese elderly patients," Cristobal said.

Captain Autonomo Amano of Hoegh Fleet Services was awarded the Gregorio Oca Achievement Award, which is given to seafarers "who best symbolize any of the achievement of contribution of the late Captain Oca to the maritime industry."

"Captain Amano stands out as the most deserving among the seafarer-awardees. He is one of his company's outstanding seafarers, getting all accolades from all levels during his entire years of service in the company," Cristobal said.

Amano has been with his employer for 26 years.

Other outstanding employee-awardees were Marcos Antonio Torres, who carried the Olympic torch during the 2008 Beijing Olympics; Analiza Perez-Amurao, a one-time teacher of the year in Thailand's Mahidol University International College; Jesefina Omalsa, the first Filipino nurse to be accredited as a national surveyor by Saudi Arabia; Rosalito Nebre, for his outstanding performance as manager of the Summit Park View Hotel in Burma (Myanmar); and Elmer Ortega, a multiawarded advertising creative director in Jordan.

Also honored with the award for community and social service were Dr. Celerino Umandap for his charitable works for Filipino communities in Kuwait, and Marilyn Kasimieh for her assistance to distressed Filipinos in the United Arab Emirates and for her support for her provincemates in Iloilo.

Similarly honored were Frank Jamadre for his leadership in helping fellow Filipino workers abroad and indigents in the Philippines, and Irma Tobias for her role in protecting the rights of Filipino workers in Italy and in promoting cultural understanding between Filipinos and Italians.

Aquino lauds country's 'new heroes'

President Benigno S. Aquino III paid tribute to the country's "new heroes" for bringing honor and prestige to Filipinos through their dedication, sacrifice and hard work while eking out a living far from their families overseas.

In his speech keynoting the awarding ceremonies of the 2011 Bagong Bayani in Malacañang on Thursday, the President praised the overseas Filipino workers for being partners in nation building.

"Saludo po ako sa di-matawarang dedikasyon at sakripisyo ng ating mga OFWs. *Malayo man sa kanilang tahanan, buong tatag at sagisag pa rin sila sa pagkayod upang mabigyan ng maginhawang buhay at kinabukasan ang kanilang pamilya* (I salute the dedication and sacrifice of our OFWs. Although many miles away from home, they are dedicated in working hard to give their family a comfortable life and a better future)," the President said.

"Ang mga ipinadadalang remittance *ng ating mga* OFWs *para sa panggastos sa bahay o pagpapagawa ng kanilang* dream house; *para sa pambayad ng matrikula ng mga anak o ng kapatid, o di kaya pangtustos sa negosyo, ay katumbas din ng pag-usad ng mga Pilipino sa tuwid na landas* (The remittance sent by OFWs for household expenses or to provide budget for their dream house; to pay for the tuition of their children or sibling, or provide for their business, is also for the progress of Filipinos toward the righteous path)," he added.

He stressed that the term Bagong Bayani or New Hero is a fitting testament to OFWs around the world whose dedication and sacrifice have greatly helped in uplifting the lives of their families and the economy.

"Kaya naman hindi maitatangging kayo ang ating mga bagong bayani. Hindi man kayo gumagamit ng mga sandata sa pakikibaka, pinapalaya ninyo ang bayan mula sa pagkakagapos nito sa kahirapan—mga bayani kayong ipinupuhunan ang dugo, pawis at pagod upang itaas ang antas ng kabuhayaan ng inyong pamilya at ng ekonomiya (No one could deny that you are our new heroes. Although you do not use weapons to fight, you are freeing the nation from being tied from poverty—you are heroes who invest blood, sweat and exhaustion to improve the livelihood of your family and the economy)," the President said.

"Nakikipagsapalaran kayo kaakibat ang tatag ng loob na magtrabaho sa kanila, ng pagkakahiwalay sa mga mahal sa buhay; ang tapang sa pagharap sa mga pagsubok ng pag-iisa at ng hirap ng trabaho at sa pagiging salbabida ng ating ekonomiya (You take a risk with firm dedication to work for them, being away from your loved ones; your bravery to face the trials of being alone and the hardships of work and for serving as a buoy for our economy)," he added. ***(Philippine Embassy Press Office)***



Philippines breaks longest line of coins with 73 kms

The Philippines believes it has broken the Guinness World Record for having laid out the longest line of coins of the same denomination Thursdday, when it completed a 73.02-kilometer line of 25-centavo coins.

The previous record was 64.88 km held by the United States.

Organizers of the coin-gathering and-laying out event, called the "Barya ng mga Bayani (Coins of Heroes): The Power of Small Change," said that 3.651 million 25-centavo coins were used to make the 73-km stretch. The coins were laid out in front of the Quirino Grandstand in Manila.

A kilometer required 50,000 pieces, according to the organizers, composed of the Kabayanihan Foundation, the BSP Employees Association, and the BSP Officers Club.

The measurement of the line of coins was confirmed by independent geodetic engineer Eric Medrano.

Video and other types of documentation will be submitted to the Guinness World Record office in London in the next few days. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

A volunteer lines up 25-Centavo coins on the pavement in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record currently being held by the United States at the Rizal Park in Manila, Philippines Wednesday Nov. 30, 2011.

AP

Samu't Sari



BENEFIT CONCERT

A young female dancer sporting an elaborate bead necklace also wears a contemplative look during a dance number as part of performances featured at the San Jose Church Benefit Concert held at the Oleai Sports Complex on Saturday night.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



POLO CLASSES

Members of Fruit and Vegetable Carving - Batch 3 discuss how to go about carving their watermelons during their graduation ceremony at the Filipino Workers Resource Center on Oct. 22.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



Members of Basic Computer Operations 1 - Batch 54 smile for the camera as they enjoy their graduation feast.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The Basic Computer Operations 1 - Batch 54 are seen here working on their computers on the last day of class on Nov. 20.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Advanced happy birthday greetings to Jian Carlo "Yoyi" Sales, who will be celebrating his birthday on Sunday, Dec. 4! Hope you have a blast on your special day and may you have many, many, many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Nanay, Tatay, Lola Mommy, Ninong Soc, and Ninong Jayvee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced birthday greetings go out to Karen Ann Alla, who will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow, Dec. 4! Wishing you a blessed and wonderful day. Enjoy. Greetings come from your KES Umang family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





To my one and only Rebecca Jean Ramon, happy birthday Nen! Enjoy the sun 'n' surf and see you guys in Washington! Snow soon! Love 'n' kisses, Mom.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to Hayashi Daniel C. Pua, who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec. 3, 2011, in Guam. Although we can't wish you a happy birthday in person, we will spend the whole day with happy thoughts of you. May the Lord shower you with lots of blessings. Wishes coming from your families in Guam and on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





Belated happy 7th birthday to my baby, Rachel Ann 'Debu' Ramon. I miss and love you a lot! Love 'n' kisses from Mom Donna in WA.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Sarkozy calls for treaty to save euro

BRUSSELS (AP)—Germany and France will push for a broad treaty "refounding and rethinking the organization of Europe," French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared Thursday. He said that without some new "convergence" among European countries, the continent's crushing debt could destroy the euro.

Sarkozy made the statements in the southern French port city of Toulon as he and German Chancellor Angela Merkel prepare to meet in Paris on Monday to try to lift Europe out of the debt crisis ahead of a major EU summit next week. Earlier Thursday, the head of the European Central Bank hinted that the ECB now may be willing to take bolder actions to address the crisis that has rocked the continent.

"There can be no common currency without economic convergence, without which the euro will be too strong for some, too weak for others, and the eurozone will break up," the French president said before several thousand sympathizers of his conservative party.

On Friday, Merkel will address Germany's parliament about Europe's financial crisis and the EU summit on Dec. 9, which is expected to focus on how to make the eurozone more unified.

Merkel has acknowledged the need for treaty changes that impose stricter financial controls on eurozone countries to prevent them from taking on too much debt.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble told reporters in Berlin on Thursday there is now "a crisis of confidence" in the eurozone and that tough and credible new rules are needed to regain market confidence. Germany has said EU treaty amendments are required to do that.

Sarkozy spoke a day after the European Central Bank, the Federal Reserve and the central banks of Canada, Japan and Switzerland moved together to make it easier for commercial banks to borrow American dollars. It was a move intended to calm financial markets, which had grown increasingly worried about European debt.

Seventeen countries share the euro, and those countries plus 10 more make up the European Union. All 27 would have to approve a change in the Maastricht Treaty, which created the euro in 1999. Sarkozy said the treaty "has revealed itself to be imperfect."

A disorderly breakup of the euro would devastate the world economy, analysts predict. It could cause banks to grow fearful and stop lending money to each other, which could trigger a replay of the stock market crash during the last world financial crisis, in 2008.

In addition, reduced economic output in Europe would hammer the economies of the U.S. and China, both of which depend heavily on Europeans to buy the things they make and export.

Racing to find a debt crisis solution

European leaders are trying to stop a debt crisis that is threatening to shatter their 12-year-old experiment: a common euro currency. The monetary union has existed since the euro was created in 1999, but the European Union, which includes the 17 euro nations and 10 others that use their own currencies, has no central authority over taxing and spending.

Under discussion

Fiscal union

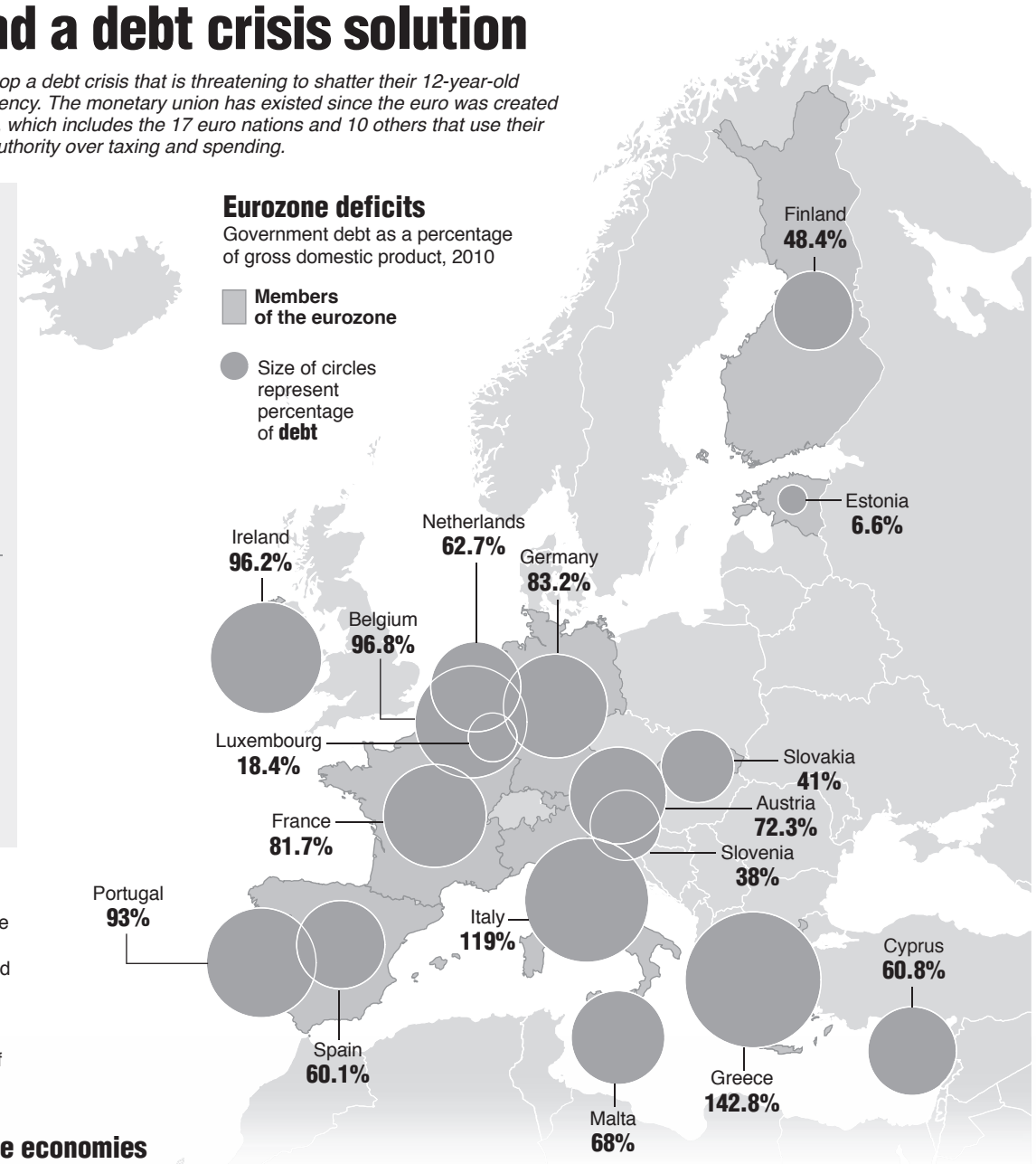
One proposal gaining prominence would have countries cede some control over their budgets to a central European authority; allowing a central authority to have some control over the budgets of sovereign nations would create a fiscal union that would be able to discipline countries that go astray and could enforce new financial regulations

Eurobonds

Another option is for the 17 nations in the eurozone to sell bonds together to help the countries in the deepest trouble because of debt; Germany has resisted such a plan because it would raise borrowing costs for it and other nations, such as France, that have good credit ratings

Comparing the nations

The United States recorded more than $14 trillion in economic output last year; Texas accounted for $1.2 trillion, or more than 8 percent of the country's GDP, making the state's economic output in 2010 larger than that of 13 of the eurozone nations



A look at the 17 eurozone economies

	GDP (In trillions, 2010)	Population* (In millions, 2011)	Unemployment rate (2010)
Austria	$.38	8.2	6.9%
Belgium	$.47	10.4	8.3%
Cyprus	$.02	1.1	4.6%
Estonia	$.02	1.3	16.9%
Finland	$.24	5.3	8.4%
France	$2.58	65.3	9.3%
Germany	$3.32	81.5	7.1%
Greece	$.31	10.8	12.5%
Ireland	$.20	4.7	13.6%
Italy	$2.06	61	8.4%
Luxembourg	$.05	0.5	6%
Malta	$.01	0.4	6.9%
Netherlands	$.78	16.9	5.5%
Portugal	$.23	10.8	10.8%
Slovakia	$.09	5.5	12.5%
Slovenia	$.05	2	10.7%
Spain	$1.41	46.8	20.1%

*As of July

Source: CIA, Bureau of Economic Analysis, AP, The New York Times, McClatchy Newspapers, Eurostat, BBC

Graphic: Kyle Alcott, Dallas Morning News

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Economy improving, but job growth is still weak

WASHINGTON (AP)—Factories are producing more. Construction is growing. People are buying more cars. The holiday shopping season is off to a strong start.

Normally, all that would suggest a bright outlook for the economy. Problem is, employers still aren't hiring much, the number of people seeking unemployment benefits remains high and Europe's debt crisis poses a grave threat to the future.

Thursday's mixed economic picture came a day before the government will report on unemployment and job growth for November. That report is expected to show a modest net gain of 125,000 jobs, scarcely enough to keep up with population growth. The unemployment rate is projected to remain 9 percent.

Analysts say the economy remains locked in a good-but-hardly-good-enough position: It's growing consistently, yet too weakly to induce employers to hire aggressively.

"The economy is picking up momentum as we close out 2011," said Neil Dutta, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. At the same time, it faces "an ongoing flu in Europe" and other challenges, such as uncertainty about future taxes and spending in the United States, Dutta said.

For now, factories are expanding. The Institute for Supply Management, a trade group of purchasing managers, says its manufacturing index rose to 52.7 in November, up from 50.8 in October. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion. Factories have grown for 28 straight months.

Manufacturers are slightly more hopeful about the next few months because of cheaper raw materials and healthy demand, said Bradley Holcomb, head of the ISM's survey committee.

Still, he said, companies have tempered their outlook because of concerns about whether the economy will grow consistently, uncertainty about federal taxes and regulation and fear that Europe's debt crisis may trigger a global economic panic.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Australian court extends ban on Galaxy tab sales

SYDNEY (AP)—Apple Inc. won a small victory on Friday in its global patent battle with rival Samsung, after Australia's highest court temporarily extended a ban on sales of Samsung's Galaxy tablet computers in the country. Samsung Electronics Co. is desperate to begin selling the Galaxy in Australia in time for Christmas sales, but the High Court's decision means the device can't go on the market until at least Dec. 9. Apple took Samsung to court in Australia after accusing the Suwon, South Korea-based company of copying its iPad and iPhone. In October, a Federal Court judge ordered Samsung to halt sales of the device ahead of a trial. Samsung appealed, and on Wednesday, a full bench of the Federal Court threw out the earlier ruling and said Galaxy sales could resume on Friday.

Railroad strike averted with agreements, extension

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's freight railroad industry averted a potentially costly strike on Thursday after resolving differences with two of its unions and agreeing to extend talks with a third. The National Railway Labor Conference, which represents the railroads in bargaining talks, said its negotiators would try to reach an agreement with the final union before Feb. 8. Without the agreements, the railway unions could have begun striking as early as Tuesday, when a federal "cooling off" period was set to expire. Retailers warned that a rail strike would cost businesses and consumers $2 billion a day and prove especially damaging during the industry's most important shopping season of the year.

Mexico discovers gas reserves off Gulf coast

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Deepwater drilling in the Gulf of Mexico has revealed reserves that could multiply Mexico's production of natural gas, the country's state oil company said Thursday. Petroleos Mexicanos said the Nen 1 exploratory well found a deposit estimated to hold 400 billion cubic feet of gas. It said that could lead to production of 27 million cubic feet a day. This year's daily average is 6.64 billion cubic feet. The company said the gas deposit is 14,270 feet (4,350 meters) feet deep, including 4,898 feet (1,493 meters) of water.

Nation

Senate approves $662 billion defense bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ignoring a presidential veto threat, the Democratic-controlled Senate on Thursday overwhelmingly approved a massive, $662 billion defense bill that would require the military to hold suspected terrorists linked to al-Qaida or its affiliates, even those captured on U.S. soil, and detain some indefinitely.

The vote was 93-7 for the bill authorizing money for military personnel, weapons systems, national security programs in the Energy Department, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. Reflecting a period of austerity and a winding down of decade-old conflicts, the bill is $27 billion less than what President Barack Obama requested and $43 billion less than what Congress gave the Pentagon this year.

Shortly before final passage, the Senate unanimously backed crippling sanctions on Iran as fears about Tehran developing a nuclear weapon outweighed concerns about driving up oil prices that would hit economically strapped Americans at the gas pump. The vote was 100-0.

"Iran's actions are unacceptable and pose a danger to the United States and the entire world," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said. "Iran supports terrorist groups, arms the killers of American soldiers, lies about its nuclear program, violates its citizens' basic rights and threatens Israel's security."

The Senate's version of the defense bill still must be reconciled with the House-passed measure in the final weeks of the congressional session.

In an escalating fight with the White House, the bill would ramp up the role of the military in handling terror suspects. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and FBI Director Robert Mueller both oppose the provisions as does the White House, which said it cannot accept any legislation that "challenges or constrains the president's authorities to collect intelligence, incapacitate dangerous terrorists and protect the nation."

Late Thursday, a White House official said the veto threat still stands.

The bill would require military custody of a suspect deemed to be a member of al-Qaida or its affiliates and involved in plotting or committing attacks on the United States. American citizens would be exempt. The bill does allow the executive branch to waive the authority based on national security and hold a suspect in civilian custody.

The legislation also would deny suspected terrorists, even U.S. citizens seized within the nation's borders, the right to trial and subject them to indefinite detention. Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., had sought an exception to the provision for U.S. citizens, but her effort failed, 55-45.

Lengthy negotiations produced a face-saving move that the Senate backed 99-1, a measure that said nothing in the bill changes current law relating to the detention of U.S. citizens and legal aliens. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., repeatedly pointed out that the June 2004 Supreme Court decision in Hamdi v. Rumsfeld said U.S. citizens can be detained indefinitely.

The series of detention provisions challenges citizens' rights under the Constitution, tests the boundaries of executive and legislative branch authority and sets up a showdown with the Democratic commander in chief. Civil rights groups fiercely oppose the bill.



AP

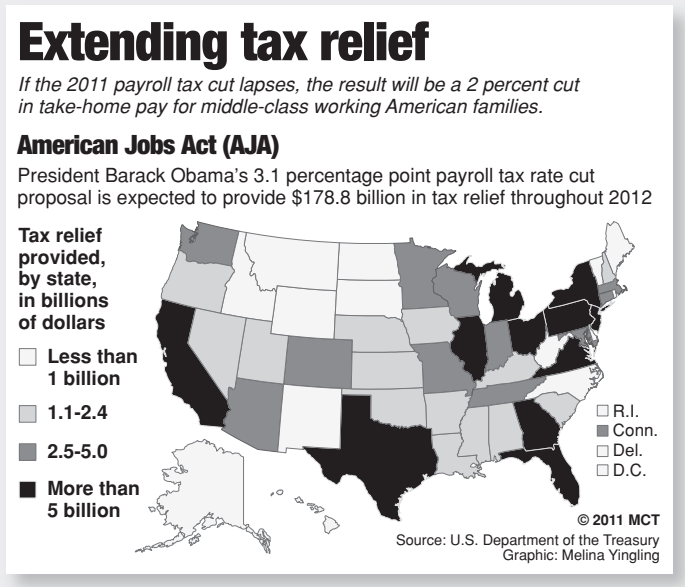
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., center, accompanied by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin of Ill., and Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters about extending the payroll tax cut, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

...rejects, for now, extending payroll tax cut

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate on Thursday sidetracked rival plans to extend a Social Security payroll tax cut, in dueling votes that pave the way for negotiations on a compromise on a core component of President Barack Obama's jobs program.

First, Republicans defeated Obama's plan to extend the payroll tax cut through the end of next year while also making it more generous for workers.

Minutes later, in a vote that exposed rare divisions among Senate Republicans, more than two dozen of the GOP's 47 lawmakers also voted to kill an alternative plan backed by their powerful leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, to renew an existing 2 percentage point payroll tax cut.



Many Republicans and even some Democrats say the payroll tax cut hasn't worked to boost jobs and is too costly with the federal deficit requiring the government to borrow 36 cents of every dollar it spends.

The defeat of the competing plans came as House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said for the first time that renewing the payroll tax cut would boost the lagging economy, a view many in his party don't share. Boehner also promised compromise on a renewal of long-term jobless benefits through the end of 2012.

The payroll tax cuts and unemployment benefits are at the center of a costly, politically-charged year-end agenda in which Democrats seem poised to prevail in renewing a tax cut that many Republicans back only reluctantly. But Republicans are insisting—in a switch from last year—that the payroll tax cut and jobless benefits be paid for by cutting spending.

Both parties are seeking the political high ground as next year's elections loom, with Democrats accusing Republicans of siding with the rich, and Republicans countering that Democrats were taxing small business owners who create jobs.

The first payroll tax plan to fall was a Democratic measure that was the centerpiece of Obama's jobs package announced in September. It would cut the Social Security payroll tax from 6.2 percent to 3.1 percent next year and also extend the cut to employers, with its hefty $265 billion cost paid for by slapping a 3.25 percent surtax on income exceeding $1 million.

For Herman Cain, the campaign all but over

ATLANTA (AP)—Herman Cain is still campaigning for president. But by most measures, his White House bid is all but over.

His standing in polls is cratering. Supporters are wavering if not fleeing. Fundraising is suffering.

And, these days, the former pizza company executive is less a serious candidate than the butt of late-night comedy jokes after a string of accusations of sexually inappropriate behavior and, now, an allegation of a 13-yearlong extramarital affair.

"His chance at winning the presidency are effectively zero," said Dave Welch, a Republican strategist who worked on both of John McCain's presidential bids.

And Republican strategist Kellyanne Conway said: "It's the daily dose of the wince-and-cringe factor that leaves people wondering what could be coming next,"

As it has since Ginger White stepped forward Monday, the allegation of an affair overshadowed Cain's campaign for another day Thursday, when he told the New Hampshire Union Leader that his wife, Gloria, did not know he was providing the 46-year-old Atlanta-area businesswoman with money for "month-to-month bills and expenses."

And, Cain said, his wife also didn't know of what he called a friendship with White until she said publicly that she had a casual 13-year affair with Cain that ended about eight months ago.

On Fox News Thursday night, Cain said he will make a decision on the future of his campaign before Monday. One option would be to continue his bid "full steam ahead" and another would be to suspend the effort. Viability will be a key consideration.

"This whole series of accusations is going to leave a little cloud of doubt in a lot of people's minds for a long, long time," he said.

It is the latest chapter in a saga that has played out in recent weeks as his campaign has been rocked first with allegations of sexual harassment and, now, White's affair claim.

Even before all that surfaced, Cain faced steep hurdles to the nomination. He didn't have much of a campaign organization. He was spending more time on a book tour than in early primary and caucus states.

Strong winds down trees and power lines in West

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The most powerful winds to tear across California in years kept 9-year-old Dalen Guyton up late into the night. Then, around midnight, came the boom.

The great yawning tree that stood next to his grandmother's house, the one with the rope swing he and his sisters played on, had toppled, coming within inches of their one-story home.

On Thursday, the siblings stood out front surveying the damage, like thousands across the West where high winds toppled countless trees, knocked out power to hundreds of thousands and brought gusts of 123 mph.

"If she pays someone to clean it up, it's not going to be a good Christmas," said the boy, who was wearing a Santa hat. "She's not going to be able to get any presents."

The National Weather Service called Southern California's winds Wednesday night a once-in-a-decade event, and it's not over. Winds were expected to pick up again Thursday night, though they won't be as fierce.

In the mountains, winds were expected to gust up to 65 mph into Friday morning and 50 mph in the valleys.

High wind warnings and advisories were also issued for Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Arizona and New Mexico. The blustery weather is expected to eventually hit Oklahoma, Missouri and Indiana.

The storms were the result of a dramatic difference in pressure between a strong, high-pressure system and a cold, low-pressure system, meteorologists said. This funnels strong winds down mountain canyons and slopes.

The winds reached 123 mph at a ski resort northwest of Denver and topped 102 mph in Utah.

California, however, was the hardest hit, with more than 330,000 utility customers still without power late Thursday. The gusts were blamed for toppling semitrailers and causing trees to fall on homes, apartment complexes and cars.

A state of emergency was declared in Los Angeles County, where schools in a dozen communities were closed.

In some neighborhoods, concrete light poles cracked in half. Darkened traffic signals and fallen palm tree fronds and branches snarled traffic. At a Shell station, the roof collapsed into a heap of twisted metal.

Asia

Clinton meets Suu Kyi, lays down reform markers

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Wrapping up a historic three-day visit to Myanmar on Friday, Hillary Rodham Clinton met for a second time in as many days with former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi, this time for a more formal meeting at the lakeside residence where the Nobel laureate was kept under house arrest for much of the last two decades.

Suu Kyi and her staff welcomed Clinton, who greeted Suu Kyi with two kisses on the cheek, saying: "It is just a great honor for me not only to be here but to see all of you."

Clinton's meetings with Suu Kyi were the highlight of the U.S. secretary of state's visit to the long-isolated country known as Burma and forcefully underscored a U.S. challenge to Myanmar's leaders: The new civilian government must expand recent reforms, including the release of political prisoners, to improve relations as it emerges from more than a half-century of repressive military rule.

"We believe that any political prisoner anywhere should be released," the Clinton told reporters on Thursday. "One political prisoner is one too many in our view."

U.S. officials warned that even the modest incentives Clinton offered to Myanmar's new, military-backed leaders this week would come off the table if the country fails the political-prisoners and other tests of reform.

In meetings with top Myanmar officials in the capital of Naypyidaw and then with Suu Kyi in the commercial hub of Yangon, Clinton said the country's leaders must end violent campaigns against ethnic minorities and break military ties with North Korea

Clinton offered a small package of rewards for steps President Thein Sein and other leaders have already taken but said the U.S. was not ready to lift tough sanctions on the country. Removing some of those sanctions would require approval by Congress, where many lawmakers have criticized the Obama administration for rewarding Myanmar too quickly without enough evidence of change.

The modest first steps Clinton announced include Washington no longer blocking enhanced cooperation between Myanmar and the International Monetary Fund that could lead to the approval of much-needed loans and support for the poorest nation in the region. Also, the U.S. would support intensified U.N. health and microfinance programs and resume bilateral counternarcotics efforts.



AP

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, right, and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton talk during their meeting at Suu Kyi's residence in Yangon, Myanmar Friday, Dec. 2, 2011.

Those steps could be followed by an upgrade in diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Myanmar, Clinton said, although U.S. officials stressed that concrete action on American concerns must be completed first. The U.S. has not had an ambassador in Myanmar since the early 1990s and is represented now by a charge d'affaires.

Clinton delivered letters from President Barack Obama to Thein Sein and Suu Kyi, in which Obama expressed hopes for better ties. The secretary of state made the point directly in her public remarks.

"I came to assess whether the time is right for a new chapter in our shared history," Clinton said, adding that the U.S. was ready to further improve relations with the civilian government in the Southeast Asian nation—but only if it stays on a path of democratization.

A senior U.S. official said Thein Sein had outlined his government's plans for reform in a 45-minute presentation in which he acknowledged that Myanmar lacked a recent tradition of democracy and openness. He asked for U.S. help in making the transition from military to full civilian rule, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to describe the private diplomatic exchange.

Clinton's trip is both a mark of approval, and a prod to further reform.

The U.S. is "encouraged by the steps that you and your government have taken to provide for your people," she said, but those steps must be consolidated and enlarged.

"While measures already taken may be unprecedented and certainly welcome, they are just a beginning," she told reporters. "We're not at the point yet where we can consider lifting sanctions that we have in place because of our ongoing concerns about policies that have to be reversed. But any steps that the government takes will be carefully considered and will be matched."

In addition to calling for the release of political prisoners and an end to ethnic violence, Clinton said the U.S. wants to see a truly open political system and improvements in human rights. She also warned the country's leaders to break suspected illicit military, nuclear and ballistic missile cooperation with North Korea that may violate U.N. sanctions.

Al-Qaida says it is holding US hostage in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Al-Qaida claimed responsibility Thursday for the kidnapping of a 70-year-old American aid worker in Pakistan in August, and issued a series of demands for his release.

In a video message posted on militant websites, al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri said Warren Weinstein would be released if the United States stopped airstrikes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. He also demanded the release of all al-Qaida and Taliban suspects around the world.

"Just as the Americans detain all whom they suspect of links to al-Qaida and the Taliban, even remotely, we detained this man who is neck-deep in American aid to Pakistan since the 1970s," al-Zawahri said, according to a translation provided by the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors militant messages.

Weinstein was abducted by armed men from his house in the eastern city of Lahore on Aug. 13. Police and U.S. officials have not publicly said who they believed was holding him, but Islamist militant groups were the main suspects.

Weinstein, who has a home in Rockville, Maryland, worked in Pakistan for several years and spoke Urdu.

He was the country director in Pakistan for J.E. Austin Associates, a U.S.-based firm that advises a range of Pakistani business and government sectors. The company has said Weinstein is in poor health and provided a detailed list of medications, many of them for heart problems, that it implored the kidnappers to give him.

Thailand cleans up, but some areas remain flooded

BANGKOK (AP)—As Thailand's floodwaters continue their slow journey to the sea, large swaths of the country have drained and dried, leaving behind a stinky, thick grime on everything touched by the nation's worst deluge in more than a half century.

In many areas, people are returning to their houses armed with cleaning brushes, rubber gloves and masks to endure the sewer-like stench. But others whose homes are still inundated complain they've been forgotten, especially by residents of the capital who escaped the flooding.

Nicha Rakpanichmanee, an 28-year-old graduate student, invited a group of friends to help clean her town house on Bangkok's northern edge.

"I didn't expect it to be like this ... the smell!" she said.

Room by room, the cleaning team sprinkled disinfectant powder on everything covered by the thick filthy film, which spread 30 inches (80 centimeters) high during the three weeks Nicha's neighborhood was inundated. Other parts of Thailand were covered by more than 6 feet (2 meters) of water for two months.

Just down the street, her neighbors were not as lucky.

"We haven't even started cleaning yet. We're just throwing things out. We've been throwing stuff out for three days now," said Yai Kupatanorrat, 50, who sells women's clothes at the popular Chatuchak weekend market.

He threw out several bags and boxes of new clothes that he had stored at his home, as well as cabinets and other furniture.

More than a fifth of the country's 64 million people have been affected by the flooding, which began in late July, and more than 600 have died. Fifteen provinces remain flooded.

The World Bank estimates the damage at $45 billion and recovery and reconstruction needs at $25 billion. The National Social and Economic Development Board has slashed Thailand's economic growth forecast to 1.5 percent from 3.5 to 4 percent.

Several industrial estates in Ayutthaya and Pathum Thani provinces were severely flooded, bringing the country's key automotive and computer parts industries close to a halt. Authorities in Ayutthaya say four industrial parks there have been cleaned up, while another is still under 20 inches (50 centimeters) of water. In Pathum Thani, two industrial estates remain flooded.

Much of the government's effort to fight the floods has focused on protecting the capital, which has remained largely dry thanks to hundreds of pumps and dikes built of sandbags. Across the dikes, residents outside the metropolitan area complain they were sacrificed and now are forgotten.

"When I talk to people who aren't affected, they say, 'Oh, no one's talking about the floods anymore,' but my house has been flooded for nearly two months," said Chalanthorn Reaud, 32, a cultural officer for the Alliance Francaise of Bangkok.

The 300 homes in her housing estate in Nonthaburi province, next to Bangkok, are still flooded with more than 30 inches (80 centimeters) of water.

Sirinuch Jungtamdeerungkajorn, a 35-year-old pastry chef who also lives in the capital's still-flooded outskirts, is staying with her parents in a rented condominium in Bangkok's central business district.

The main road that leads to her neighborhood is dry, but on her street the water is still 20 inches (50 centimeters) deep.

"People who don't live here think it's not flooded anymore," she said. "But it's going to be some time before my life will return to normal."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan president pardons imprisoned rape victim

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Thursday pardoned an Afghan woman serving a 12-year prison sentence for having sex out of wedlock after she was raped by a relative. Karzai's office said in a statement that the woman and her attacker have agreed to marry. That would reverse an earlier decision by the 19-year-old woman, who had previously refused a judge's offer of freedom if she agreed to marry the rapist. Her plight was highlighted in a documentary that the European Union blocked because it feared the women featured in the film would be in danger if it were shown.

Another Tibetan sets himself on fire in protest

BEIJING (AP)—A former Buddhist monk in Tibet has been hospitalized after setting himself on fire, the latest in a series of apparent self-immolation protests against Chinese rule, a human rights group said. Most of the protesters who set themselves on fire are calling for Tibetan freedom and the return of their spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who fled to India during an abortive uprising against Chinese rule in 1959. The Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet said Tenzin Phuntsog, a former monk in his 40s, set himself on fire Thursday. The attempted self-immolation reportedly occurred near the Karma monastery in Tibet's Chamdo region.

Japanese PM wants status of royal brides studied

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's prime minister said Thursday the government should study the possibility of allowing women in the royal family to keep their imperial status after marriage. Japanese law requires female members marrying a commoner to officially leave the monarchy. That has palace officials worried because more than a third of Japan's 23 imperial family members are single women and girls, some approaching marriage age. Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda said he intended to seek a national debate on the matter.

World

Egypt's Islamists poised to dominate parliament

CAIRO (AP)—Islamists appear to have taken a strong majority of seats in the first round of Egypt's first parliamentary vote since Hosni Mubarak's ouster, a trend that if confirmed would give religious parties a popular mandate in the struggle to win control from the ruling military and ultimately reshape a key U.S. ally.

Final results, expected Friday, will be the clearest indication in decades of Egyptians' true political views and give the long-banned Muslim Brotherhood a major role in the country's first freely elected parliament. An Islamist majority could also herald a greater role for conservative Islam in Egyptian social life and shifts in foreign policy, especially toward Israel and the Palestinians.

The showing in Egypt—long considered a linchpin of regional stability—would be the clearest signal yet that parties and candidates connected to political Islam will emerge as the main beneficiaries of this year's Arab Spring uprisings.

Tunisia and Morocco have both elected Islamist majorities to parliament, and while Libya has yet to announce dates for its first elections, Islamist groups have emerged as a strong force there since rebels overthrew Moammar Gadhafi in August. They also play a strong opposition role in Yemen.

Judges overseeing the Egyptian vote count said Thursday that near-complete results show the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest and best organized political group, could take as many as 45 percent of the contested seats.



AP

T-shirts for sale are displayed in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011. Judges overseeing the vote count in Egypt's first parliamentary elections since Hosni Mubarak's ouster say near-final results show Islamist parities taking a majority of seats contested in the first round. The Arabic writing on T-shirts read, "Jan. 25, Revolution, freedom."

In addition to the Muslim Brotherhood wins, parties backed by ultraconservative Salafist Muslims looked poised to take 20 percent, giving Islamist parties a striking majority in the first round of voting in key districts, including Cairo and Alexandria.

Similar results in the remaining rounds would give Islamist parties a majority in parliament, which many believe they will use to steer the long-secular U.S. ally in a more religiously conservative direction.

The Islamist victories came at the expense of a coalition of liberal parties called the Egyptian block, the group most closely linked to the youth activists who launched the anti-Mubarak uprising—and which is expected to win only about 20 percent of seats.

In Egypt, the Brotherhood was officially banned and suppressed for decades, but built a nationwide network of activists who focused on providing services to the poor. After Mubarak's fall, the group campaigned as the Freedom and Justice Party, their organization and the Brotherhood's name-recognition giving them a big advantage over newly formed liberal parties.

The election also provided an opening for the Salafist Muslims whose strict Islamic practice is similar to that in Saudi Arabia. While the Muslim Brotherhood has said it will preserve individual rights, Salafi groups are not shy about their ambition to turn Egypt into a state where women must dress modestly and TV content deemed offensive will be banned.

The Brotherhood's leadership has so far avoided defining the ruling coalition it will seek to build. And during the campaign, it often avoided strict Islamist rhetoric in favor of more inclusive messages about social equality and clean government.

Critics, however, worry that once in power, the group will band together with its Islamist allies to impose stricter social codes. Many in Egypt's Coptic Christian minority fear they'll face new restrictions on building churches.

The Obama administration has lauded the elections, saying it will cooperate with the victors, no matter what their persuasion.

Israel, which has long considered its peace treaty with Egypt a buffer against regional war, worries Islamists will be less cooperative than Mubarak was. Israel is highly unpopular in most of Egyptian society, and Brotherhood leaders have suggested they'll review Egypt's relationship with the Jewish state. They may also deepen ties to Hamas, the militant group that rules the Gaza Strip.

This week's vote, held in seven provinces, will determine about 30 percent of the 498 seats in the People's Assembly, parliament's lower house. Two more rounds, ending in January, will cover Egypt's other 20 provinces. Three more rounds lasting until March will elect the less powerful upper house.

Egypt's election commission said that unexpectedly large voter turnout in the first round had slowed the count and that results, initially expected Thursday, would be announced Friday.

Participation figures have not been released, but Maj. Gen. Ismail Etman of the ruling military council estimated that 70 percent of eligible people voted.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican army dismantles gang's antennas, radios

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexican army troops dismantled a telecommunications system set up by organized crime in four northern states, authorities said Thursday. The Defense Department said soldiers confiscated 167 antennas and 166 power supplies that gang members used to communicate among themselves and to monitor military movements. The operation also netted more than 1,400 radios and 2,600 cellphones in the border states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and Coahuila and in the state of San Luis Potosi, a statement said.

Ruling party to lead Guyana's first minority govt

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP)—Guyana's ruling party will head a minority government that will not control the South American country's parliament, election officials announced Thursday after three days of counting paper ballots. Chief Elections Officer Gocool Boodhoo announced that the East Indian-dominated People's Progressive Party led by 61-year-old economist Donald Ramotar won the most seats in Monday's elections but fell short of an absolute majority. The result is likely to mean turbulent political times for Guyana since opposition parties could control the 65-seat parliament if they are able to work together.

Biologists find albino among Brazil dolphins

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Brazilian biologists have found an extremely rare example of an albino dolphin among an endangered species that lives off the southern coast of South America. The research group, based at Univille university in Santa Catarina, said Thursday that it was the first recorded instance of an albino in the pontoporia blainvillei species, a very shy type of dolphin that rarely jumps out of the water. It's known in Brazil as Toninha and in Argentina and Uruguay as the La Plata or Franciscana dolphin. Camilla Meirelles Sartori, the lead biologist of Project Toninhas, said she first saw the white calf with pinkish fins at the end of October. Her group photographed him in early November.

Chavez touts new Latin America, Caribbean bloc

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—What if they threw a giant party for the Americas and didn't invite the United States or Canada? That's what Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is doing with a two-day, 33-nation summit starting Friday, welcoming nations from Brazil to Jamaica in what he hopes will be a grand alliance to counter U.S. influence.

Many presidents have less sweeping goals in mind, seeing the new Community of Latin American and Caribbean States mainly as a forum for resolving regional conflicts, building closer ties and promoting economic development.

Yet the bloc's creation is also a sign that for many countries, the United States is no longer seen as an essential diplomatic player in regional affairs.

"The U.S. has lost an awful lot of space in the region, even though it's still the most important, the most powerful country in the region," said Eduardo Gamarra, a Latin American politics professor at Florida International University in Miami. Still, he said, it's unclear whether the region's governments are truly committed to forming a close alliance that brings together Latin America in ways that offset U.S. power.

Chavez, who sells the largest share of Venezuela's oil to the United States, is urging the region to assert its independence, noting it was once a dream of 19th century independence hero Simon Bolivar to unify Latin American nations. Lampposts in Caracas are now festooned with banners picturing independence leaders ranging from Bolivar to Cuba's Jose Marti, along with the slogan "the path of our Liberators."

At least publicly, though, only some of Chavez's closest allies seem to share his interests in creating alternatives to established bodies such as the Washington-based Organization of American States, which includes every nation in the Americas except Cuba among its active members.

Nor are the region's leaders likely to agree with Chavez in creating organizations to replace those he strongly criticizes, such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the World Bank.

The new group, known by its Spanish initials CELAC, will add one more acronym to a region with plenty of smaller organizations, including Unasur, Mercosur and the Caribbean Community. Some of Chavez's most fervent support comes from within the nine-nation, socialist-leaning Bolivarian Alternative bloc known as ALBA, which he has promoted with allies including Cuba and Nicaragua.

"This isn't aimed at becoming a new economic integration bloc nor replacing the OAS," said Maria Teresa Romero, an international studies professor at the Central University of Venezuela.

"President Chavez and others in the ALBA are using the CELAC for their political and propagandistic aims," Romero said. For Chavez, she said, it's a chance to show the outside world and Venezuelans "that he still has great international leadership" even though his influence has slipped in the past several years.

Official: 5,000 flee central Nigeria violence

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—At least 5,000 people have fled villages in central Nigeria at the heart of clashes between nomadic cattle herders and farmers, officials said Thursday, as at least five people have died in the fighting.

Authorities acknowledged there could be many more deaths in the violence hitting rural Benue and Nasarawa states in Nigeria's fertile central belt, a dividing line in the country between religious and ethnic groups.

However, the remote villages remain difficult to reach and government officials appear hesitant to publicize details of the attacks at risk of inflaming a region where such clashes remain common.

The fighting began this week as Muslim Fulani cattle herders found some of their livestock dead, said Conrad Wergba, Benue state's information commissioner. The cattle herders retaliated by attacking villages of the Christian Tiv ethnic group in both Benue and Nasarawa states, he said.

"It is an occurring problem," Wergba said. "There is this conflict each time their cattle destroy the Tiv farmland during grazing."

A combined force of police and military moved into the areas to guard the area, he said.

Benue State police spokesman Ejike Alaribe said at least five people had died in the attacks, though he acknowledged that was all authorities could confirm on their own in the remote villages.

"That's official figures, but some others died but not in this our state," Alaribe said. "It's a remote area. Most of the things that happen, they don't feel like going to report them to the appropriate authorities. ... It could be more."

Young Style

Light up any holiday with luminaries inspired by Las Posadas

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Preparations for Las Posadas, which celebrates the Christian belief of the Nativity, have begun in Mexico and anywhere people of Spanish descent celebrate the days leading up to the birth of Jesus Christ.

The holiday, which has its origin in Spain, represents the biblical story of the difficult journey Jesus' parents made after Roman Emperor Augustus decreed that everyone in the world ruled by Rome must register in a census.

Mary, who was about to give birth, rode from Nazareth to Bethlehem on the back of a donkey led by Joseph.

For more than 400 years, the people of Mexico have celebrated the posadas, which is a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter before Jesus' birth. The posadas, the Spanish word for shelter or lodging, are observed each evening from Dec. 16 to 24.

During the nine days of Las Posadas, a neighborhood party is held each night in someone's home. At dusk, children, dressed as shepherds, angels and Mary and Joseph, parade through the neighborhood, holding candles with an angel in the lead.

The procession travels from house to house, with guests asking for shelter. At each residence, guests are welcomed with food and treats.

At the end of the evening, children vie to break open a pinata in the shape of the Christmas star.

I made some safe and easy luminaries to light the way for your Las Posadas celebrations with brown paper lunch sacks and pictures I cut out from old Christmas cards. You could also draw or paint your pictures.

If you don't celebrate this Mexican ritual, luminaries can be used for any holiday, be it Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, Kwanzaa or a Christmas party to welcome Santa. Simply use pictures that represent the holiday you will be celebrating.

Supplies you will need:

- Brown paper lunch bags. Make sure to get as many as you will need to line the walk to your door.
- Pictures of your choosing. You will need two for each sack.
- One glow stick, available at a craft or party store, for each sack.
- a cup sand for each sack.
- White craft glue.
- Scissors.
- Stickers (optional).

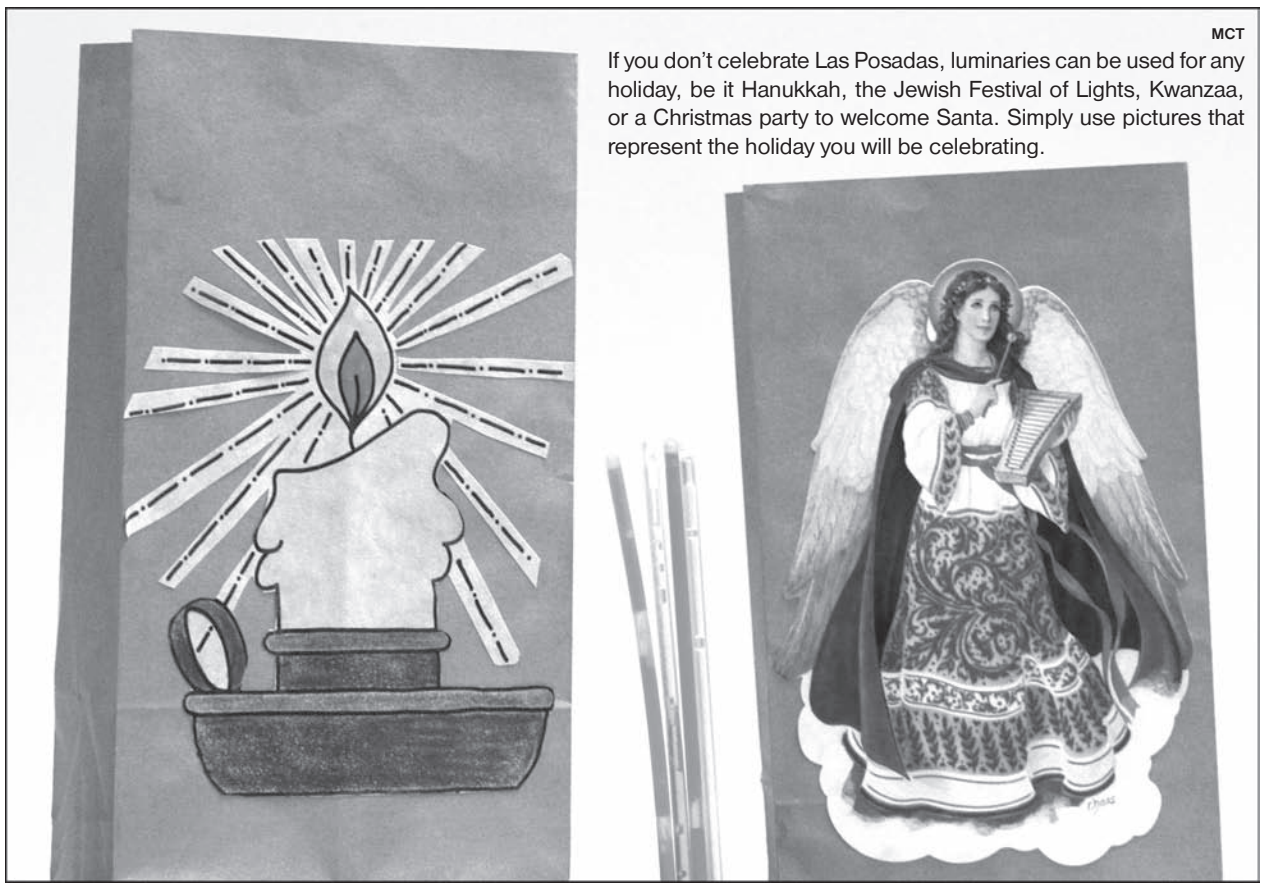
Color your pictures or cut them out of old Christmas cards. Or draw, color or paint the symbol for your holiday on both sides of the bag.

For Las Posadas, I used a greeting card picture of an angel and one from a coloring book that I colored with crayons.

After the glue is dry, open the bag and place about a cup of sand in the bottom.

Open the container of glow sticks just before your guests are expected to arrive, bend them to start them glowing and drop one inside each sack.

Evenly space the bags on each side of the walkway.



MCT

If you don't celebrate Las Posadas, luminaries can be used for any holiday, be it Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, Kwanzaa, or a Christmas party to welcome Santa. Simply use pictures that represent the holiday you will be celebrating.

Treat an older pet: Make a container for dog bones

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Anyone who knows me understands I am a pet lover and a huge proponent of adopting homeless animals rather than buying them from breeders—especially puppies that come from puppy mills. Today, I am going one better and urging you to not only visit your local rescue agency or animal shelter to find your next best friend, but to open your heart to an older animal, as well.

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, founded in 1866, is the first humane organization in the Western Hemisphere. The agency works to rescue animals from abuse, pass humane laws and share resources with shelters nationwide.

The agency also urges compassionate people to opt to adopt an older pet and provides these reasons why you should:

- With older dogs, you get what you see. You won't guess whether they will grow into their huge paws, what their personalities are, what you will need to do to keep them well groomed, and whether the two of you can bond over a lifetime.
- Older dogs are much easier to train. Don't ever believe you can't teach an old dog new tricks. It simply isn't true. Aside from that, older dogs are much calmer than pesky youngsters.



MCT

Treat an older pet by making a container for dog bones

- Senior dogs are super-loving. Those of you who already have seniors know they are devoted and grateful for what you give them.
- They don't need constant attention like puppies do and settle in quickly to a new routine. They have been around the block a few times and have learned what it takes to get along with others. Older dogs are more likely to be house trained and even if they aren't, they have the physical and mental abilities to learn much more quickly.
- They are less likely to be chewers. They already have passed their teething years and are much less likely to chew destructively on your furniture or shoes.
- Seniors are great for their senior human companions. It takes much less energy to exercise them.
- And finally, being a hero to an older animal just feels good. Older dogs are often the last to be adopted and the first to be euthanized.

Save a life and feel good about yourself.

November is National Adopt a Senior Pet Month. To honor older dogs, I made a dog bone container with instructions I found at http://crafts.kaboose.com/gifts/make-gifts-for-your-pet.html on the Web.

Supplies you will need:

- Large plastic container with lid.
- Stickers, cut-outs appropriate for your pet.
- Paintbrush.
- Modge Podge (available at craft stores).

Remove labels on the container and wash and rinse inside and out and dry.

Paint the container with Modge Podge.

Place your stickers and cut-outs where you want them. Let dry.

Repaint the container with Modge Podge, let dry and fill with treats.

Create a gourd gobbler to grace your holiday table

By KATHY ANTONIOTTI
AKRON BEACON JOURNAL



MCT

A gourd gobbler makes a perfect holiday centerpiece.

Did you ever wonder why the Cratchit family thought the perfect entree for their Christmas dinner was a goose rather than the turkey, which will grace many American tables this holiday season?

It wasn't until Ebenezer Scrooge had his midnight awakening with the ghosts of Christmas past and anonymously sent the family a prize turkey that the large bird was served at the Cratchit's feast alongside the plum pudding. Bob Cratchit could afford only a goose on his salary as Scrooge's clerk in Charles Dicken's popular, novella, "A Christmas Carol."

Turkeys had been brought to Britain long before Victorian times. But because they were so costly, roast beef would have been served in northern England and Londoners served the goose—at least those of means did. Poor people generally ate rabbit after they were caught in a snare trap.

Not so in America where the wild turkey ranged from Canada to Mexico.

Before Queen Victoria's reign, no one in Britain had heard Father Christmas referred to as Santa. No one sent Christmas cards and most people who were fortunate enough to have a job were expected to work on Christmas Day.

Dickens' short novel became popular in Britain just as people were seeking a return to long-forgotten Christmas traditions. It is believed that Dickens, whose novella is credited with restoring merriment to a somber holiday, was relying on his own childhood and his near photographic memory to bring life to his characters.

Dickens was such a popular writer during his lifetime, he is credited with a movement that encouraged the populace to give money and gifts to the poor. Those traditions soon spread across the Atlantic Ocean and 168 years later, are still practiced by Americans, especially during the holiday season.

In honor of a true American bird, I made a gourd gobbler as a centerpiece during the holiday season with instructions I found at www.marthastewart.com/how-to/thanksgiving-kids-craft-gourd-gobblers.

Supplies you will need:

- 15 corn husks or construction paper or unwound paper twist ribbon in the same shade as the corn husks.
- Red and orange acrylic paints
- Paint brush.
- Hole punch.
- Brown paper.
- Low-temperature glue gun.
- Turkey template available on the Web site.
- Golden Hubbard squash or other gourd that narrows at the stem.
- Scissors

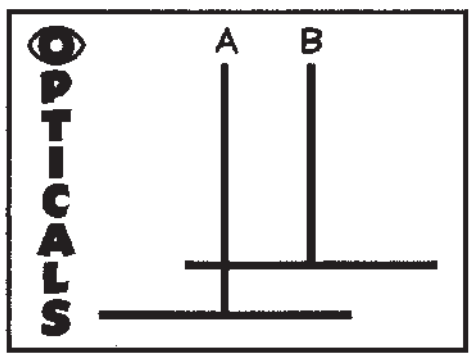
Download the turkey template. Using the template, cut feathers, head and wattle from the corn husks or paper.

Paint the wattle red and the beak orange. Paint the birds tail feathers, if you would like. Set aside to dry.

Use hole punch to cut holes from brown paper for eyes.

Glue the wattle and the eyes on the head. Glue the edges of the neck and head together, leaving the bottom and back open. Open the bottom of the neck to fit over the stem of the gourd and glue in place. If necessary, trim stem to fit.

OPTICALS



OF THE TWO figures above, A and B, which one's height and width are equal?

Answers: Figure A.

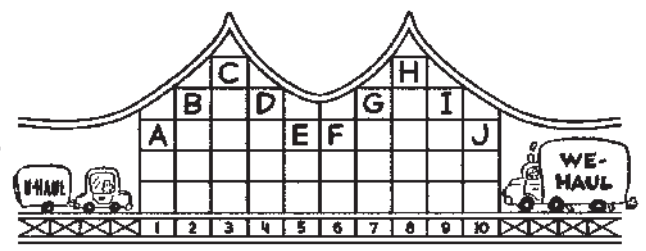
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Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A WORD BRIDGE!

Illustrated by David Coulson



The bridge above contains 10 supporting words. We give you the first letter of each, plus plenty of hints.

1. Commercial announcements.
2. To criticize harshly.
3. Superman and Batman have them.
4. A small dent or nick.
5. A female sheep.
6. To strike out (baseball).
7. To erode away gradually.
8. Disorder or chaos.
9. Mischievous children.
10. Type of bird.

Answers: 1. Ads. 2. Bash. 3. Capes. 4. Ding. 5. Ewe. 6. Fan. 7. Gnaw. 8. Havoc. 9. Imps. 10. Jay.

A CHEERFUL ADDITION! To solve this problem, you must replace the letters in the AlphaMath puzzle with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. See if you can get a higher total than we did.



Our answer: E=9, G=2, N=8, O=3, X=1, M=7, A=5, S=4. (922 + 832 = 1754).

IT'S MAGIC! Use the numbers 1 through 10 to fill in our Magic Square. The numbers in each horizontal row and vertical column should total 37. We've filled in six of the squares. The rest is up to you.

	11	17	
16			12
	19		
			18

[37]

Answers: First row: 8, 11, 17, 1. Second row: 16, 2, 7, 12. Third row: 3, 19, 9, 6. Fourth row: 10, 5, 4, 18.

Dog's cough a worry



DEAR PAWS'S CORNER: My friend has a Border Collie mix, "Jeffy," who is about two or three years old. He snorts or coughs at least 10 or 15 times a day, and when he does, a copious amount of mucus comes out of his nose. Can you tell me what causes this and how to remedy it?—B.P., Prince George, Va.

DEAR B.P.: Coughing in dogs can have a number of causes, ranging from allergy to serious infection. The first thing your friend needs to do is take Jeffy to the veterinarian to rule out a dangerous illness like kennel cough or other infection, or an injury.

Your friend should let the vet know how long Jeffy has had this cough, if he was recently boarded or regularly goes to doggy day care, and if his shots are up to date. Jeffy also should be regularly treated with a heartworm preventive; if he isn't, your friend must let the doctor know. If Jeffy dealt with a recent flea infestation, let the vet know.

If Jeffy is diagnosed with an illness —respiratory infections can happen to any dog—the vet will determine the type of infection and prescribe medicine to treat it. He also may prescribe a cough suppressant to give the dog a little relief from the coughing.

If Jeffy gets a clean bill of health, your friend will want to look into other causes of his cough and mucus, such as seasonal allergies, a food allergy or an environmental allergy such as dampness and/or mold in the house. Treatment, along with reduced exposure to the allergen that's causing the problem, can make a big difference.

■ ■ ■

Send your question or tip to ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. For more pet care-related advice and information, visit www.pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

by Samantha Weaver

■ It was English biologist Thomas Henry Huxley who made the following sage observation: "Irrationally held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors."

■ If you put your rubber bands in the refrigerator, they'll last longer.

■ It's not just the tiger's fur that has stripes; its skin is striped, too.

■ You probably know that the iconic film "Rocky" starred Sylvester Stallone in the leading role, but you might not be aware of the fact that he wrote the script, as well. The sale of the rights to the script came just in time; he had a total of $106 in his bank account and was trying to sell his dog for lack of the means to feed it.

■ In the winter of 1932, Niagara Falls froze solid.

■ Madame Tussaud started creating her famous wax figures in 1777 and created many models during the French Revolution. She traveled around Europe displaying wax figures (both the ones she created and ones she inherited from her mentor), and she opened her first museum in London in 1831. Today there are branches located in the United Kingdom, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Vienna, Moscow, Bangkok, Dubai, Berlin and Hamburg, plus five U.S. locations. It's appropriate that there are more locations in American than in any other country, since so many Hollywood celebrities are recreated in the museums. In fact, in 2006, Shiloh, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's baby, became the first infant to be memorialized in wax for Madame Tussauds.

■ Those who study such things say that apples are more effective than caffeine at waking you up in the morning.

■ It's not clear why, but a duck's quack doesn't create echoes.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The trouble with being punctual is that nobody's there to appreciate it."—Franklin P. Jones

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MAGIC MAZE ● SHAKESPEAREAN FEMALE CHARACTERS

T C Z W U R P M J H E A L C Z
X U S Q N L J A L O I V I A G
P O R T I A T E C N Z E R D X
A D I S S E R C A V T C E N R
P A N L I K A T H E R I N A J
H E I L D N I L A S O R O R C
A Y U M W T V T R P P T G I N
L J K I R G E C B Z O A X M W
U S R P O E D U R T R E G A N
M L A I L E H P O J I B L G E
D B A Y X W A I L E D R O C U

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Beatrice	Gertrude	Katherina	Rosalind
Cleopatra	Goneril	Miranda	Titania
Cordelia	Hermia	Portia	Viola
Cressida	Juliet	Regan	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

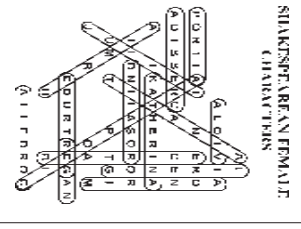
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		17
×		÷		+	
	−		×		5
−		+		×	
	+		+		16
26		10		18	

1 3 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

17	1	×	9	+	8
5	5	×	3	−	4
16	3	+	7	+	6
	×		+		−
	+		÷		×
26		10		18	

Recycle old records into groovy gifts



Holiday songs abound on the grooves of old 45s and LPs that are no doubt scratched and warped in attics everywhere. But your stored-away keepsakes can have a new life if you get into this holiday gift-making activity. It's all about warping them even more to create terrific bowls, picture frames, clocks or even a planter for a small holiday poinsettia.

First the bowls. You and your kids can change your "oldies but goodies" into unique shapes in less than 30 seconds with these easy directions.



An adult or teen should do the first step of the project. In a well-ventilated room, place a record on a sheet of aluminum foil and set in a preheated, 300 F oven. Keep your eye on the record the entire time it is in the oven. If your oven doesn't have a window, leave the door slightly ajar to observe the warping of the record, which will occur within 15 to 20 seconds. As soon as it begins to warp, immediately remove it from the oven using oven mitts. You don't want the record to melt!

With the mitts still on, remove the foil and place the record into a glass or metal mixing bowl that is smaller in diameter than the record, centering the hold of the record in the middle of the bowl. Press the center portion of the record toward the bottom of the bowl. It will harden within seconds into its new, curvy shape. Remove.

Mold several records, and then get the whole family involved in the decorating with some of these ideas:

1. Place a picture in the middle and, using paint in squeeze bottles, draw designs around it.

2. Leave a large molded record as is and use for a tray to hold your collections or holiday cards. It's especially fun if you chose a record with a holiday song. Or, set a napkin inside and use as an eye-catching container for popcorn, chips or cookies.

3. Glue a mirror in the center and add a self-sticking hanger on the back to display on the wall.

4. Buy an inexpensive clock mechanism at a craft store such as Michael's, and attach it through the center hole of the record. Glue colorful buttons around the hole to represent each of the 12 hours.

5. Use the molded record as a planter for a growing plant. The hole provides drainage.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning series "Donna's Day" is airing on public television nationwide. To find more of her creative family recipes and activities, visit www.donnasday.com and link to the NEW Donna's Day Facebook fan page. Her latest book is "Donna Erickson's Fabulous Funstuff for Families."

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Good Housekeeping

Organize, it just feels good

By CINDY MCNATT
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER



ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/MCT

Organizational professional Gail Gray, sorts items from the linen closet in the home of Robin Barr in the process of reducing clutter and organizing the home on May 5, 2010, in Mission Viejo, California.

What happens when you don't have the time or the correct brain parts to make all your stuff make sense? Enter a professional organizer in an industry that has been built on stuff and what to do with it.

Gail Gray of A Fresh Start Professional Organizing in Costa Mesa, Calif., is a card-carrying member of the National Association of Professional Organizers and National Study Group on Chronic Disorganization.

Gray makes stuff make sense in home offices, kitchens, garages, closets and even supervises a move. More, she conducts workshops to help you help yourself.

Gray says that organizing is natural for some people, but believes it is a learned skill for most of us.

"I was a messy teenager and a collector," she said. "But I taught myself to be organized when I went off to college. Nobody wants to room with a messy person."

Gray explains that there are different kinds of unorganized—some people are collectors, others procrastinators, others too busy. Hoarding is in a class of its own—more of an emotional issue than an organizing one and an area that takes someone trained in hoarding to be successful.

"I try and get inside a client's head and find out how they think. You want to find out how a person retrieves their items in order to organize them in a way that works for them," Gray said.

We tagged along on a day of organizing for client Robin Barr in Mission Viejo, Calif. Barr likes to clean and keeps her home organized, but lacked the time to keep up.

"She's an extremely busy businesswoman who just didn't have time to think about how her house functioned," Gray said.

Gray found kitchen items stored in the bathroom, the linen closet was in disarray. Gray started the project by removing every single item.

"You don't just want to shuffle things around," she said.

Everything came out of the cupboards, they were cleaned and lined with shelf paper and then the items were put back in a way that worked for Barr.

"That linen closet overwhelmed me," said Barr. "It didn't fit into all one category. I had personal care items, cleaning products, storage for things I bought on sale, and my linens."

Barr did have a bit of what Gray calls "product remorse." She couldn't throw away some products past their expiration date because it seemed wasteful. Some items were purged, some donated and the rest went back into the cupboards, labeled for use.

"When she was done with everything, it was aahhh," said Barr. "It just gives me a sense of peace."

All in all, for a busy woman like Barr, organizing just feels good and takes some of the chaos out of her daily routine.

"If you're a really busy person, with kids and a stressful morning routine, you'll find out that organizing just makes it all more manageable," said Gray.

The most satisfying part about Gray's job is not when she is done, but months later when she discovers that a client has kept up.

"My ultimate goal is to phase me out of their lives," she said.

To conquer clutter, you must first look inward

By LIZ REYER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

When overwhelmed with clutter at home and at work, do inner housekeeping first, and then outer cleanup will come more easily.

Excessive attachment to material items often stems from a misplaced attempt to fill an inner need. Understand your inner values and goals, and examine the steps you're taking to align with them.

Set aside at least an hour for doing this groundwork, and be ready to do some writing. Take some deep breaths, put any other to-dos out of your mind, and focus inward.

Then begin to write, listing your top 10 values—the things that are most important to you, such as integrity, independence, compassion … you get the idea. Then trim this list to five, and then finally, to three. It'll get more difficult each time you cut your list back, but it'll help you focus on what matters most to you.

By the way, these steps are outlined in more detail in Jill Carroll's *Stop the Crap: Six Lessons to Get Your Life Back*, which describes this set of tried-and-true activities for understanding your values and goals.

Next, focus on your goals. Try Carroll's question, "If money and time were not issues, what would I want to be, do, experience, participate in, or have?"

Consider short term goals—next week, month, or year—as well as multi-year goals. What do you hope to have accomplished when you look back at the end of your life?

Now, consider the extent to which your current reality reflects your values and goals. Get specific; it'll make it easier to know what to change. For example, you might say you value efficiency, yet spend valuable time hunting for documents you need amid a sea of paper. And then consider how an inner need, such as fear of loss, might be driving this discrepancy.

With more clarity achieved inwardly, it's time to clear your environment. Prioritize your attention, for example, working on one file drawer. Consider each item, and assess if you really need it. Are the notes from a project in 2004 going to be helpful? Try imagining the actual circumstances in which you might consult them. Then let any items that don't pass the test go, moving them into a recycle bin.

Notice the feelings that come up. Letting go may trigger anxiety—fear of being underprepared for an unknown event. Be gentle with yourself, but don't let these feelings stop you. Take some deep breaths and keep decluttering.

Besides paper, many other items get in our way. Trinkets from meetings, gifts without much emotional or practical value, even extra furniture that we're just putting up with. If they don't support your values and goals, let them go.

It'll be easier, especially at home, to do this work with someone else, and to have a plan for disposing of items that no longer serve you but that may be useful for someone else.

Celebrate each success and notice the energy that your cleanup releases; it's a path to greater serenity.

Liz Reyer is a credentialed coach with more than 20 years of business experience. Her company, Reyer Coaching&Consulting, offers services for organizations of all sizes. Submit questions or comments about this column at www.deliverchange.com/coachscorner or email her at liz@deliverchange.com.

Surviving a weather emergency

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: We recently experienced an unexpectedly early and heavy snowfall in the Northeast. As a new transplant from a Southern state, I was totally unprepared for this. My neighbors were a real help as I dug out from nearly a foot of snow and dealt with having no power or heat. I wanted to write you with a few of my observations from the snowstorm.



■ Make sure you have basic necessities on hand. I had a "hurricane kit" with me that I'd assembled in Alabama years before, which included a combination flashlight-radio that charges by winding a crank; extra candles and matches; energy bars; beef jerky; emergency blankets and a couple of gallons of water.

■ Have appropriate clothing for your region: Since I had just moved to the area, I had not yet bought a heavy winter coat. My next-door neighbor loaned me an extra one.

■ Purchase an extra battery for your cellphone or laptop, and keep it charged.

■ Fill your car's gas tank the day before a storm's arrival. If you have a generator, purchase fuel for it as well, and store it in approved containers (and ideally away from the house).

■ Do not run generators inside the garage! We had a few people taken to the hospital in our region due to carbon monoxide seeping into the house.

■ Get to know your neighbors before bad weather strikes, and stay in touch with them during or after a storm. Without my neighbors' help, I would have had a much harder time getting through this event.

■ And finally, when shoveling snow, lift with your legs, not your back! Don't overload the shovel, and just push the snow aside, rather than fling it away. My neighbor was happy to give me lessons. (Although, I'm investing in a snow blower as soon as they're available at the hardware store.) Hope your readers get some use out of this information. Stay warm!—Kurt H., Amherst, Mass.

A: Kurt, thanks for sharing your experience! Whether it's hurricanes in the South or blizzards in the North, being prepared is essential. Working with neighbors to get through a crisis also can't be stated enough—and it's great that you were able to work together.



HOME TIP: See a downed power line on your street? Don't approach it, even if you think it's not live, and keep everyone inside. Contact emergency services and follow their instructions.

Send your questions or comments to ask@thisisahammer.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

JOINT ANNIVERSARY



†Melvin Joseph Saures Warakai - 2nd Year

Joaquin Pangelinan Villanueva - 10th Year
Margarita Basa Villanueva - 12thYear

†Gary Glenn Basa Villanueva - 8th Year

We would like to invite all our relatives, friends and acquaintances to join us in prayers as we commemorate the death anniversary of our beloved.

Daily mass will be offered at San Jose Church beginning Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 6:00am.

On the final day, December 11, 2011, mass will be celebrated at 7:30 am. Breakfast will be served immediately at the Social Hall, San Jose Church.

Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Maase Ginen I Familian Ma'mi.

Life & Style

Scorsese's 'Hugo' named best film by NBR awards

NEW YORK (AP)—The National Board of Review picked Martin Scorsese's 3-D "Hugo" as the year's best film, an unusually kid friendly choice sure to add further intrigue to the Oscar hunt.

The group also picked Scorsese as best director for his whimsical film about an orphan who lives in a 1930s Paris train station. It's the director's first film in 3-D but one in which the adventure leads back to the early days of cinema and the wondrous films of French filmmaker George Melies.

It had been another movie nostalgic for the early days of movies—the silent film "The Artist"—that's thus far been the award season's early leader. That film didn't receive any individual awards, but it was named among the group's top films of the year. The others were "The Descendants," "Drive," "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2," "The Ides of March," "J. Edgar," "Tree of Life" and "War Horse."

Alexander's Payne's "The Descendants," a warmly humorous film about a middle-aged Hawaiian (George Clooney) balancing a new commitment to parenthood, earned the most awards with three. Best actor went to Clooney, best supporting actress to the 20-year-old Shailene Woodley (who plays the eldest daughter) and best adapted screenplay to Payne, Nat Faxon and Jim Rash's script, taken from Kaui Hart Hemmings' novel.



AP

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Asa Butterfield portrays Hugo Cabret in a scene from "Hugo."

Tilda Swinton was awarded best actress for her performance in Lynne Ramsey's drama about a school shooting in "We Need to Talk About Kevin." Best supporting actor went to the 81-year-old Christopher Plummer for his performance as a dying man who awakens to his latent homosexuality in "Beginners."

The National Board of Review, a group of film historians, students and academics founded in 1909, is one of the first notable groups to announce its picks for the year's best movies. Although it's usually the first group out of the gate, the New York Film Critics Circle moved ahead of them this year, selecting "The Artist" on Tuesday as the year's best film.

The National Board of Review has some pedigree in picking films that have gone on to win best picture at the Oscars. Last year, it selected "The Social Network" as the year's best film, while the academy chose "The King's Speech." Most likely, this year's picks only reinforce the notion that the field remains refreshingly wide open ahead of the Academy Awards nominations on Jan. 24.

NBR president Annie Schulhof drew a connection between "Hugo," "The Artist" and the group's animation pick, Gore Verbinski's movie-reference-stuffed "Rango." She called them all celebrations of film history.

"It feels really good," Schulhof said. "We can learn so much from our cinematic past. Filmmakers today are celebrating and respecting it and bringing it forward to the new generation of filmgoers."

The group awarded best ensemble to the Civil Rights-era drama "The Help." Its spotlight award went to Michael Fassbender, the Irish actor who stars in four films this year: "A Dangerous Method," "Shame," "Jane Eyre" and "X-Men: First Class."

The West Memphis 3 documentary "Paradise Lost 3: Purgatory" was selected best documentary. Best foreign film went to the Iranian drama "A Separation."

Jackson legacy expected to thrive after trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The private world of Michael Jackson, fiercely shielded by the superstar in life, was exposed in the trial of Dr. Conrad Murray. But rather than suffering harm from revelations of drug use, experts say Jackson's legacy and posthumous earning power will survive any damage done and could actually grow after he was portrayed as a victim of a money-hungry doctor.

Jackson died before he could launch a series of highly anticipated comeback concerts in London as he tried to regain the towering status he enjoyed when he released the "Thriller" album in 1983.

But his death did breathe new life into record sales and boosted other projects to generate hundreds of millions of dollars for his estate, even as his already tarnished personal life took another hit by revelations about his drug use.

Jackson zoomed to the top of the Forbes Magazine list of highest earning dead celebrities and his executors are moving quickly on more projects designed to burnish the performer's image and expand the inheritance of his three children.

A Cirque du Soleil extravaganza, "Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour" opens in Las Vegas this weekend, a precursor to a permanent installation at the Mandalay Bay Hotel, and fans are expected to flock there for a "Fan Fest" exhibit of Jackson memorabilia.

After the trial, a judge made it clear that the defense effort to cast Jackson as the villain in the case had been a miserable failure. Murray was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, called a reckless opportunist and sentenced to the maximum four years in prison.

Judge Michael Pastor also blasted Murray for experimenting on the pop star with the operating-room anesthetic propofol to help him battle debilitating insomnia, even though the drug was never meant to be used in a private home.

Some experts say the revelations made the King of Pop look more like a regular person coping with a difficult challenge.

"In the final analysis, not a lot of damage was done," Jackson biographer J. Randy Taraborelli said. "I think the trial humanized Michael Jackson. It presented him as a human being with problems."

As evidence unfolded, "It definitely made our hearts go out to Michael Jackson. He was a person suffering a great deal and not getting the help he needed," the author said.

Taylor auction tells a story of life and loves

NEW YORK (AP)—From the colorful, couture frocks worn during her two weddings with actor Richard Burton, to the dazzling ruby and diamond Cartier jewelry set, a gift from her third husband, film producer Mike Todd, "The Collection of Elizabeth Taylor" on display at Christie's auction house in New York tells a passionate story, spanning seven husbands and nearly five decades.

"(Through the collection) you can see that all the men were really, really fundamentally in love with her," said Orianne Collins, a jewelry designer and Taylor aficionado who hosted a preview of the exhibition Thursday before it opens to the public on Saturday.

Other tokens from admirers include jewelry and an autographed poster from Taylor's cherished friend, Michael Jackson. The 1987 print is signed "To my true love Elizabeth. I love you forever."

Patrons of the exhibition, which runs through Dec. 12, will certainly flock to one of Taylor's most prized possessions—a 33.19-carat, emerald cut diamond ring. The estimated worth of the gift Burton gave her in 1968 is $2.5 million to $3.5 million.

Thomas W. Burstein of Christie's said the only time the famous ring left Taylor's hand was when she offered it up to friends to try on. "She really had this notion that the jewelry should be shared and loved by everybody," he said.

One of the most precious items of the collection is a 16th century pear-shaped pearl, the centerpiece of a ruby and diamond necklace designed by Cartier and Taylor herself.

"This is such a rare piece. I compare it to the Hope diamond," Burstein said.

The necklace's estimated worth is $2 million to $3 million.

The exhibition is also a journey through Taylor's evolving fashion sense, from her glamorous red carpet gowns to a chorus line of colorful kaftans and a bevy of beaded Versace jackets. The second floor offers a look at Taylor's vibrant purse and shoe collection, a sea of gold Hermes bags, sequin Chanel clutches and satin Louboutins.

Meredith Etherington-Smith, curator of Taylor's fashion collection, called the exhibit a glimpse into Taylor's "tempestuous, fabulous, technicolor personality that epitomizes gutsy glamour."

The collection will be up for auction both live and online Dec. 13-17. Part of the proceeds will go to The Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation. The beloved actress died March 23 at age 79.

Secret daughter of Clark Gable, Loretta Young dies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—For decades, the identity of Judy Lewis' parents was one of the best-kept secrets in Hollywood.

Not until Lewis acknowledged her story in the 1994 autobiography "Uncommon Knowledge" did the general public know the truth: Lewis was not the adopted daughter of Hollywood starlet Loretta Young but had been conceived out of wedlock by Young and Clark Gable while the two filmed "Call of the Wild" in the 1930s.

Lewis died of cancer Nov. 25 in the Philadelphia suburb of Gladwyne, said Rodger McKinney, owner of the Chadwick & McKinney Funeral Home. Services will be held Saturday. She was 76.

Lewis, of Palm Springs, Calif., was raised in Los Angeles by Young as her adopted daughter. She was an adult when she learned that Young, a devout Roman Catholic, conceived her during an affair with Gable in the 1930s.

"At the time, what Loretta Young did was completely successful," said Leonard Maltin, a film critic and Hollywood historian. "The general public never had any inkling that she had done this. It protected her stardom and her image as a wholesome young woman."

Lewis was born Nov. 6, 1935, in Venice, Calif., and went on to perform on Broadway and television in her own career. She also produced the soap opera "Texas," a spinoff of "Another World." In the 1980s, she earned psychology degrees, advocating for children's rights and counseling teenagers. She later became a psychotherapist in Los Angeles, something she pursued until she was diagnosed with cancer.

In 1994, she wrote "Uncommon Knowledge," acknowledging her parentage publicly for the first time. Her mother was a single Catholic and Gable was married at the time of her birth, and the news would have led to scandal, so she created the story that Lewis was adopted.

"The situation in which they found themselves in 1935 would not have posed such a problem in the Hollywood of today," Lewis wrote in the book.



AP

In this May 16, 1961 file photo, actress Loretta Young, right, and her daughter Judy Lewis attend a party following the Emmy awards in Hollywood Calif. For decades, the identity of Judy Lewis' parents was one of the best-kept secrets in Hollywood.

Lewis wrote that Young kept her sequestered with a nurse for months after her birth and that she was then turned over to an orphanage. When she was 2, Young brought her home as her adopted daughter.

Before her memoir was published, the identity of her parents had long been rumored. Maltin said the truth was never truly public, however, until the memoir, in which Lewis describes her mother telling her the truth in 1966, years after Gable had died.

In the book, Lewis said Young told her then: "`Well, he was your father. ... He was darling. Sweet and very gentle. ... He was married, so when I discovered I was pregnant with you, I was frantic and terrified. It would have ruined both our careers, a scandal like that.'"

Russian billionaire gives Kennedy Center $5M

WASHINGTON (AP)—Billionaire Russian investor Vladimir Potanin announced a $5 million gift Thursday to the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts to mark its 40th anniversary and support its programs.

The gift, a first from Russia to the Washington center, includes additional funding from Potanin's foundation to renovate an Opera House lounge at the center. It will be renamed the Russian Lounge and redecorated to feature Russian culture when it reopens in late 2012.

Potanin, 50, is a founder of Interros Company and the biggest shareholder in the world's largest nickel producer, Norilsk Nickel. For years, he has been locked in a dispute with rival Oleg Deripaska over control of the mining giant.

Engaging with the Kennedy Center is a "natural expansion" of his foundation's philanthropic activities in Russia, Potanin said in a written statement ahead of the gift announcement.

"I believe the Kennedy Center has been playing a very important role in building strong cultural relations between our countries by presenting the greatest Russian artists to the American people," he said.

Over the years, Russia's Mariinsky Ballet, Opera and Orchestra have performed in Washington, as well as the Bolshoi Ballet.

Cultural ties date back to the Soviet Union era. For 17 years, Mstislav "Slava" Rostropovich served as music director of the National Symphony Orchestra at the center while in exile from the Soviet Union. He was celebrated in 1990 upon returning to Russia for the first time to conduct. He died in 2007.

Artistic programs from Potanin's foundation will guide the design of the new lounge to showcase Russian arts and culture. The center said it may include museum collections from the foundation's archives and a multimedia zone to highlight Russian culture.

A Waterford crystal chandelier that was a gift from Ireland when the center opened in 1971 will remain in the lounge. New Russian artwork and furnishings also will fill the room. It will be designed by Russian designer Yuri Avvakumov with architectural support from Baltimore-based Richter Cornbrooks Gribble, Inc.

The Kennedy Center is a living memorial to President John F. Kennedy. The planned national cultural center was named in his honor, following his death.

The Russian Lounge will be the fourth space at the center dedicated to a country or region, along with those devoted to Africa, Israel and China. Gifts from other countries also are part of the center's design, including 3,700 tons of marble from Italy that lines the building's interior and exterior.

Kennedy Center Chairman David Rubenstein thanked Potanin for the gift, which will support the center's programming and operating expenses.

Kim Kardashian's husband seeks annulment

LOS ANGELES (AP)—NBA player Kris Humphries asked a judge Thursday to annul his 10-week, highly publicized marriage to Kim Kardashian on the basis that it was fraudulent.

The filing comes roughly a month after Kardashian filed for divorce and apologized to fans.

Humphries' petition did not offer any details to support his contention that the marriage was a fraud, which a judge would have to determine is true for the marriage to be completely nullified.

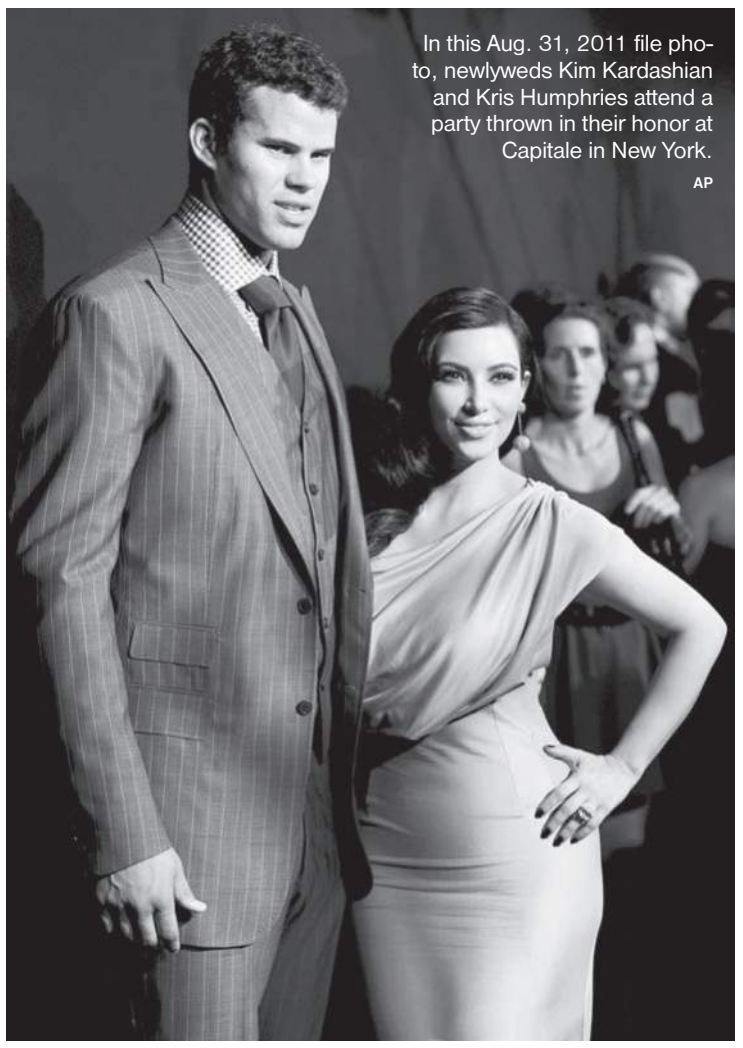
Kardashian's attorney Laura Wasser declined to comment on Humphries' filing.

The couple signed a prenuptial agreement before marrying in a star-studded ceremony Aug. 20 at an exclusive estate in California.

Kardashian's sisters and TV co-stars Kourtney Kardashian, 32, and Khloe Kardashian, 27, served as co-maids of honor.

Kim Kardashian and Humphries began dating late last year and announced their engagement in May. He proposed on bended knee with a 20.5-carat ring by spelling out "Will you marry me?" in rose petals.

Kardashian filed for divorce Oct. 31, citing irreconcilable differences. The actress-model is the star of the E! Entertainment Television series "Keeping Up with the Kardashians," and her marriage to Humphries was turned into a high-touted televised special.



In this Aug. 31, 2011 file photo, newlyweds Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries attend a party thrown in their honor at Capitale in New York. AP

Humphries is a free agent NBA forward who played last season for the New Jersey Nets. He is requesting that if an annulment isn't granted, the couple be deemed legally separated.

Humphries' marriage to Kardashian is his first; she was previously married to a music producer for four years.

Both Kardashian and Humphries are asking a judge to prevent either side from receiving spousal support, and Kardashian wants her husband to pay his own attorney's fees.

Cowell one of Walters' 'Fascinating People'

NEW YORK (AP)—Barbara Walters has named talent-show tycoon Simon Cowell, New York Yankees star Derek Jeter and pop singing sensation Katy Perry as three of the year's "10 Most Fascinating People."

Also on the list are businessman and TV personality Donald Trump, the Kardashian reality TV family, plus Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Eric Stonestreet, the onscreen couple from ABC's comedy hit "Modern Family."

Others include Pippa Middleton, sister of British royal Kate Middleton, and Amanda Knox, the former Seattle exchange student whose four years in custody ended when an Italian court overturned her murder conviction.

A ninth name is yet to be announced. The Most Fascinating Person will be revealed on the broadcast. The 90-minute special, Walters' 19th annual "Fascinating People" edition, airs on ABC on Dec. 14.

'Jersey Shore' star Pauly D teams up with 50 Cent

NEW YORK (AP)—He's talked about it, but now Pauly D is officially a member of 50 Cent's music group.

The "Jersey Shore" star officially signed to the rapper's G-Note label Thursday. The label focuses on dance and pop music—a good fit for Pauly D, since he's known as a DJ as well as a reality star.

He's been working in music since he was 16 and parlayed his success on the MTV hit series into becoming an in-demand DJ. Pauly D even joined Britney Spears for a few dates on her recent "Femme Fatal" tour as an opening act.



Pauly D

A few months ago Pauly D confirmed that he and the rapper were working together.

50 Cent said Pauly D was a "great addition to G-Note and G-Unit family" and called him smart and creative.

Judge orders Mindy McCready: Return son to Florida

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—Country singer Mindy McCready said Thursday she would not bring her 5-year-old son back from Tennessee to Florida, despite violating a custody arrangement and a judge's order.



McCready

McCready took the boy during a recent visit at her father's southwest Florida home and a judge signed an order Thursday ordering authorities to take the boy into custody and return him. It's not yet clear whether she could face criminal charges.

"I'm doing all this to protect Zander, not stay out of trouble," McCready wrote in an email to The Associated Press on Thursday. "I don't think I should be in trouble for protecting my son in the first place."

McCready says she is in Tennessee and it is looking less likely that she will bring her son back to Florida. She says she cannot travel because she's nearly seven months pregnant with twins. There was no answer at a Nashville address for McCready.

The judge's order means law enforcement anywhere can pick up Zander and bring him back to Florida.

McCready and her mother have had a long custody battle over the boy. Until recently, the boy was living with McCready's mother. Her mother was awarded guardianship in 2007. McCready says her son has suffered abuse at her mother's house; her mother, Gayle Inge, denies the abuse allegations.

"Once the child is located, we will pick him up and bring him back to Florida," said Terri Durdaller, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Children and Families. "Although these circumstances are unfortunate for a young child, his safety and well-being are our number one priority."

Durdaller said any criminal charges would come at the discretion of law enforcement or the Lee County (Fla.) State Attorney's office.

Hard-working girl disappointed by mother's lack of gratitude

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 12-year-old girl who has a problem with my mom. Once a week we clean the house, which is fairly large. Even when I do a good job on every room my mom never says, "Nice job," "Good work," or even a simple "Thanks." It hurts my feelings because I thank her for all the things she does for me. Am I wrong to want or expect compliments in return?

NEVER THANKED IN OREGON

DEAR NEVER THANKED: No, you're not wrong. I don't know anyone of any age who doesn't crave positive reinforcement. Have you mentioned to your mother how this makes you feel? Because if you haven't, you're expressing your disappointment to the wrong person.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm 15 and my parents have decided they want to have another kid. Shouldn't parents talk to their other children about this? None of us were asked for our opinion—we were just informed.

Mom has had health problems almost my entire life, so I had to grow up extremely fast. I watched her have a seizure while we were out shopping, and she was often in the hospital. I don't want another child to go through this, too.

When I say something I'm told I'm being selfish and rude. This new baby is already loved more because my dad hopes she will be better than me. Am I wrong to feel this is unfair?

UNHAPPY TEEN IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNHAPPY TEEN: Fairness may not enter into it at all. The reason you and your siblings were not asked for input about your mother having another child may be that the baby was as much a surprise to your parents as it is to all of you. Your complaining won't improve the situation, which may be why you've been told you need an attitude adjustment.

You say you grew up extremely fast. Well, it's time to accelerate the process even more. This isn't a competition for your parents' love. I'm sure they love all of you and they'd show it if you stopped being self-centered. Please give it some thought.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every year we send a holiday letter along with our greeting cards. The letter usually highlights events of immediate family members from the past year. This year there is a problem.

Our 22-year-old son, "Dexter," is in jail on burglary charges related to a drug problem. Many of our friends and relatives already know about this, but others are not aware.

Our son's siblings are doing well and we like to report on their activities. However, we are confused concerning Dexter. We really cannot send the holiday letter and leave him out, but neither can we fabricate a story concerning his status. Telling the truth would be informational but also awkward. We would appreciate your advice.

HOLIDAY LETTER WRITER

DEAR LETTER WRITER: Write the letter as you usually would, and when you get to your incarcerated son, say: "Dexter has taken some time to rethink his future. He sends you all his love." You do not have to go into any more detail or belabor the point.

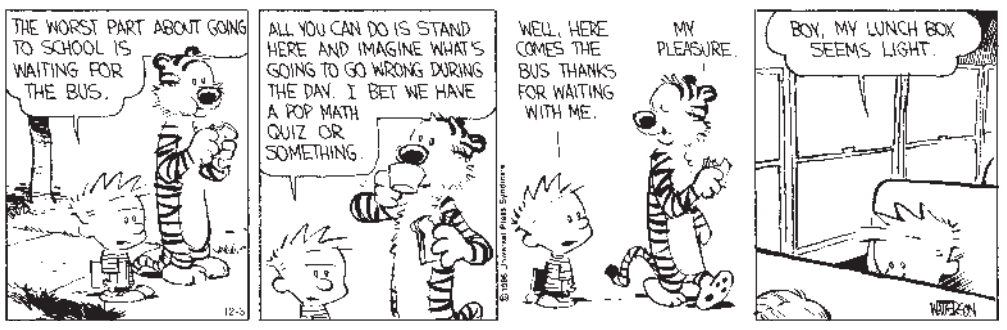
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



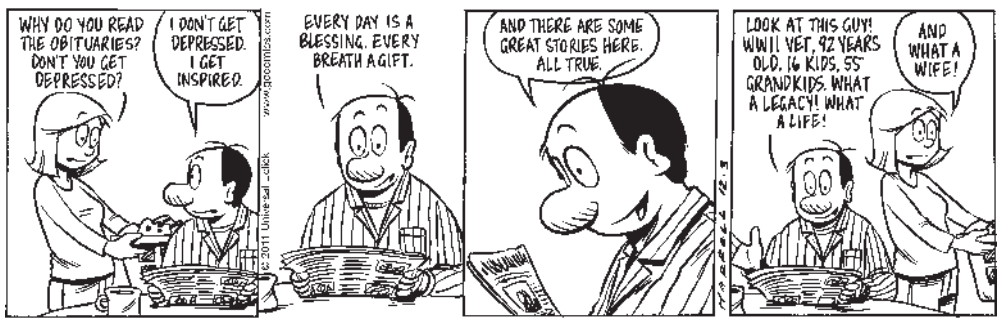
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

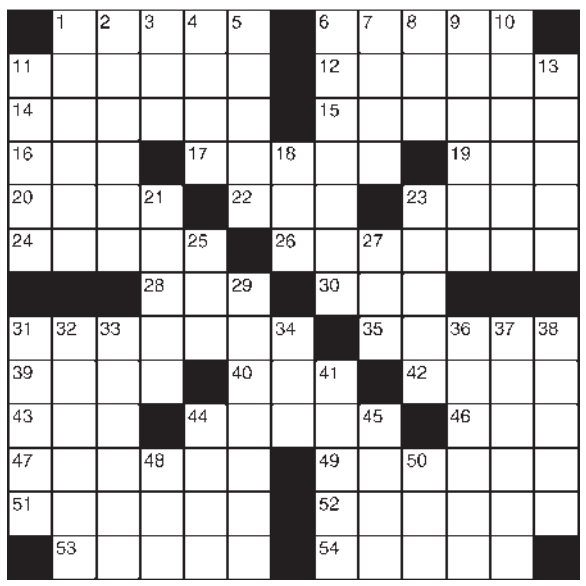
ACROSS
1 Wobbly dessert
6 Recapitulate
11 Major work by Virgil
12 Made level
14 Gondola city
15 Facade
16 Anger
17 "M*A*S*H" setting
19 Milwaukee product
20 Emblem on Canada's flag
22 Neither partner
23 Manipulates
24 Calculating snake?
26 Sculptors
28 Varnish ingredient
30 Actress Lucy
31 Easy-chair accessory
35 Eat noisily
39 Forsaken
40 Plant prickle
42 Belligerent deity
43 White House nickname
44 Dye-and-wax art
46 Hot tub
47 Merchant
49 Forgivable
51 Performance extension
52 Earl of Sandwich, e.g.
53 Bed cover
54 Neap and ebb

DOWN
1 Scoffed
2 Group of nine
3 Mainlander's memento
4 Defeat
5 Classical theater
6 A bunch of
7 Eye part
8 Chaps
9 Discomfort
10 KP gadget
11 St. Teresa's birthplace
13 Frock
18 Mythical flier
21 Criminal
23 Palatal dangler
25 Aries
27 Grafton's "— for Ricochet"
29 Life, to Sally Bowles
31 Martini garnish
32 "Monopoly" pieces
33 Rut
34 Screwball
36 Bearlike
37 Settles a debt
38 Choral rendition
41 Rosie's fastener
44 Cause ennui
45 French military cap
48 Buck's mate
50 Wynken and Blynken's pal

Solution time: 27 mins.

T	A	P	E	S	■	A	D	O	■	F	A	S
S	P	U	R	T	■	L	O	U	■	A	R	E
A	T	R	I	A	■	P	U	R	V	I	E	W
■	■	C	E	L	L	A	R	■	E	R	N	E
U	S	E	■	L	A	C	■	B	R	E	A	D
S	O	L	D	■	B	A	S	I	S	■	■	■
A	L	L	E	G	E	■	T	O	U	P	E	E
■	■	■	B	A	L	E	R	■	S	U	M	O
A	P	A	R	T	■	M	A	D	■	R	U	N
S	A	K	I	■	P	O	W	E	L	L	■	■
P	U	R	S	U	I	T	■	R	O	O	D	S
I	L	O	■	F	E	E	■	B	R	I	D	E
C	A	N	■	O	D	D	■	Y	E	N	T	A

Yesterday's answer 12-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amanda Seyfried, 26; Holly Marie Combs, 38; Brendan Fraser, 43; Julianne Moore, 51.

Happy Birthday: Impulsiveness will lead to mistakes. Stop and consider whether you are doing the right thing. This year can end up being a lesson or an accomplishment. It's up to you to pick the best course of action and to be responsible. No one will intervene if you show promise and proceed down a clear and logical path. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 23, 31, 33, 44.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep your emotions in check and you can accomplish anything you set out to do. Make a positive choice regarding a money matter and you will save yourself a bundle. An interesting position may tempt you. Get the lowdown before making a move. 3 stars

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Look for any opportunity to show off your skills. Networking will enable you to connect with someone who has something to offer you. Take advantage of any chance you get to travel, learn or enhance your relationship with someone special. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Choose your battles wisely. Personal matters will spin out of control if you haven't been clear about your intentions. Avoid making a mistake that will cost you financially and emotionally. Concentrate on making your home environment a better place. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be drawn to people who are stable and who can offer you something tangible. Don't let uncertainty or your responsibility to someone alter an important decision. Base what you do on facts and figures that work for you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't fear change that alters where you live or how. Follow your heart and make decisions based on what's best for you. As long as you stay within your means you will be happy with the outcome of any move you make. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't feel pressured to do anything that could backfire. Protect your assets and your emotional well-being. Concentrate on what you want and what will make you happy with the way you look, feel and proceed in the future. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You'll be tempted to make a sudden move that can cause problems at work or home. Consider other options before you spend on something you don't need or do something that will put you in a precarious position. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Open your eyes, size up your situation and make a move that will allow you to use your skills to get ahead. A chance to involve someone from your past will improve the outcome of a project. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): If something isn't going right, make the necessary changes. Running from problems will only make your situation worse. Face the music, say what's on your mind and do whatever it takes to improve your life. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Talk about your intentions and you will get the feedback you need to tweak your plans. Ask about an opportunity that is causing uncertainty and you will get a better understanding of the potential of what's being offered. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take advantage of any chance you get to make extra cash. Improve an underdeveloped skill and market it in a unique way. You can create demand if you use imagination. A partnership will bring greater opportunity. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): If you ask for help and offer help in return, you'll end up in a partnership that can contribute to financial growth. A past lover or co-worker will want to catch up and reconsider reuniting personally or professionally. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, determined and steadfast in your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3			2		5			4
			7		4			
	6			3			1	
7	4						3	9
2	3						8	6
	8			9			4	
			1		8			
9			5		2			7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	8	5	3	7	9	4	1
9	1	7	4	8	2	5	6	3
4	3	5	6	1	9	8	7	2
3	6	9	8	2	5	7	1	4
8	7	2	1	4	6	3	9	5
5	4	1	9	7	3	2	8	6
7	9	6	3	5	1	4	2	8
2	5	4	7	6	8	1	3	9
1	8	3	2	9	4	6	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/03

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

A WALK IN GREENWICH VILLAGE **Solution: 8 letters**

C	T	P	A	R	E	A	N	A	I	M	E	H	O	B
O	H	O	E	C	O	R	N	E	R	S	P	O	H	S
F	E	E	W	R	C	D	V	O	W	I	D	O	O	F
F	A	T	R	N	F	E	R	I	S	Y	V	C	S	P
E	T	S	A	R	H	O	M	O	B	D	O	E	E	A
E	R	T	R	E	Y	O	R	H	F	E	U	R	R	C
H	E	R	T	K	A	L	U	M	A	D	R	H	K	E
O	S	O	S	C	W	C	A	S	E	Y	E	R	M	J
U	I	L	R	E	D	H	P	N	E	R	I	B	A	O
S	D	L	E	E	A	U	A	L	E	S	S	Z	L	G
E	E	H	T	L	O	R	R	O	R	N	Z	G	L	S
V	N	T	I	B	R	C	K	O	F	E	G	D	E	W
R	C	O	R	O	B	H	S	C	E	N	E	R	Y	A
U	E	O	W	Ⓔ	Ⓕ	Ⓐ	Ⓒ	O	L	O	R	F	U	L
C	O	B	B	L	E	S	T	O	N	E	R	O	C	K

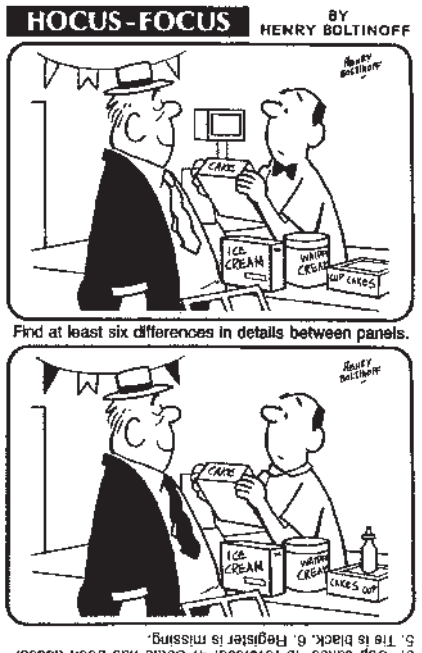
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Alley, Area, Arts, Bedford, Bleecker, Bohemian, Booth, Broadway, Cafe, Cherry Lane, Church, Cobblestone, Coffeehouse, Colorful, Cool, Corners, Curve, Food, Free, Hudson, Jazz, Jogs, Mecca, Narrow, New York, Pace, Parks, Performers, Perry, Poets, Residence, River, Rock, Scenery, Shop, So Ho, Stroll, Theatre, Townhouses, Vibe, Walk, Wedge, Writers

Yesterday's Answer: Coupons

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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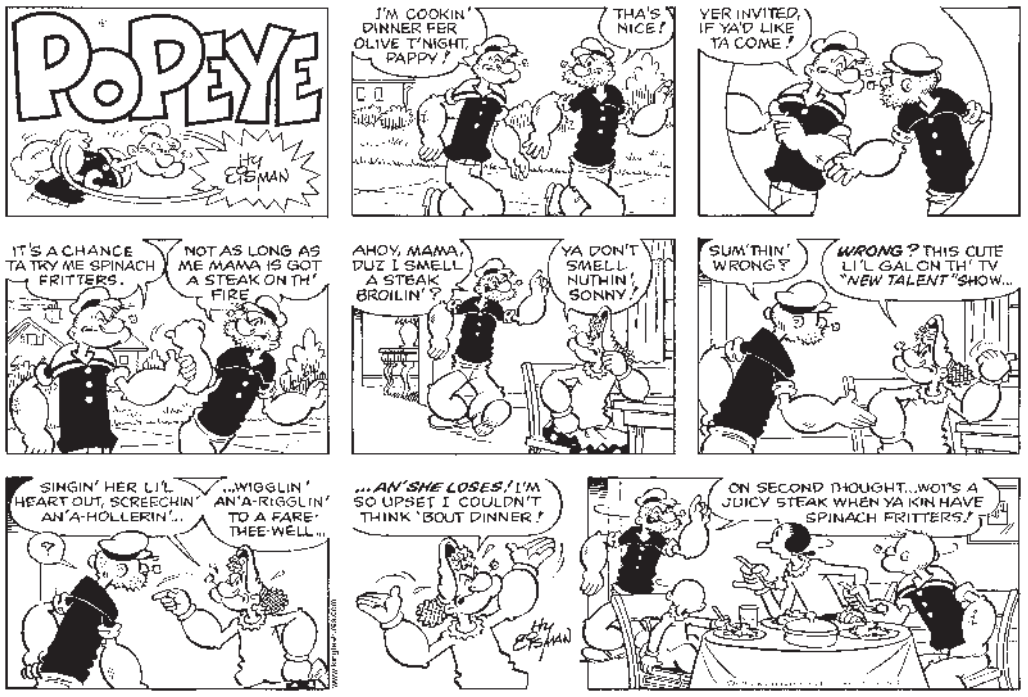
Differences: 1. Banner is different. 2. Bowtie is missing. 3. "Cup cakes" is reversed. 4. Bottle has been added. 5. Tie is black. 6. Register is missing.

Wishing Well®

2	3	4	5	3	4	7	3	2	8	3	7	8
L	K	L	S	E	I	B	E	O	N	P	E	O
2	3	4	8	3	8	5	4	3	7	8	2	7
T	P	S	M	R	O	U	T	O	K	R	S	I
3	4	6	5	3	2	6	2	3	6	7	5	7
M	E	S	C	I	O	O	F	S	L	N	C	D
3	5	3	2	6	4	3	4	2	6	8	6	3
E	E	S	G	I	N	U	T	R	T	E	U	N
2	3	6	5	3	6	2	5	8	3	4	3	4
E	B	D	S	R	E	E	S	T	O	O	K	O
2	5	3	6	4	6	8	4	5	6	5	8	3
N	I	E	I	T	S	E	H	S	O	C	A	N
5	4	6	4	8	4	6	5	6	5	8	5	5
L	E	K	R	R	S	A	O	Y	S	S	E	R

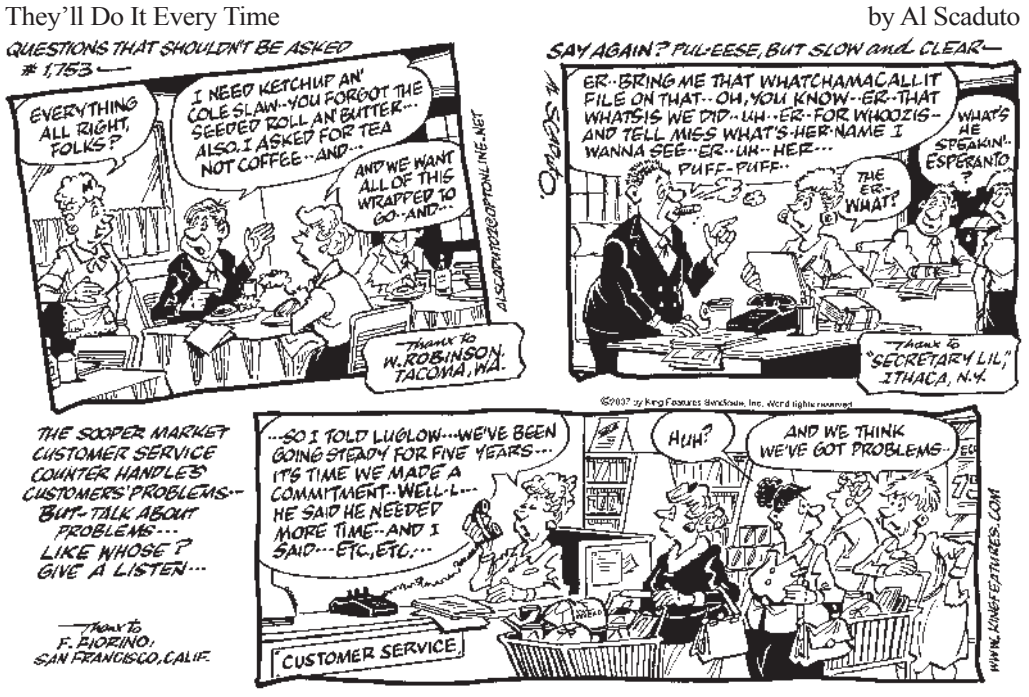
HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. it's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

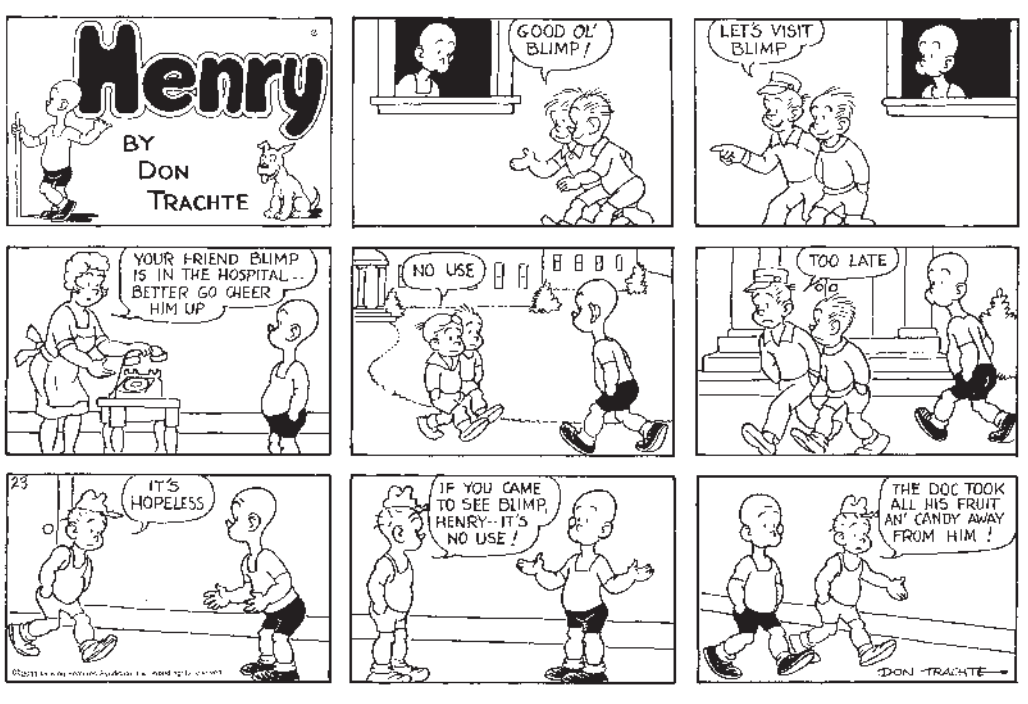
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They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto





Super Crossword

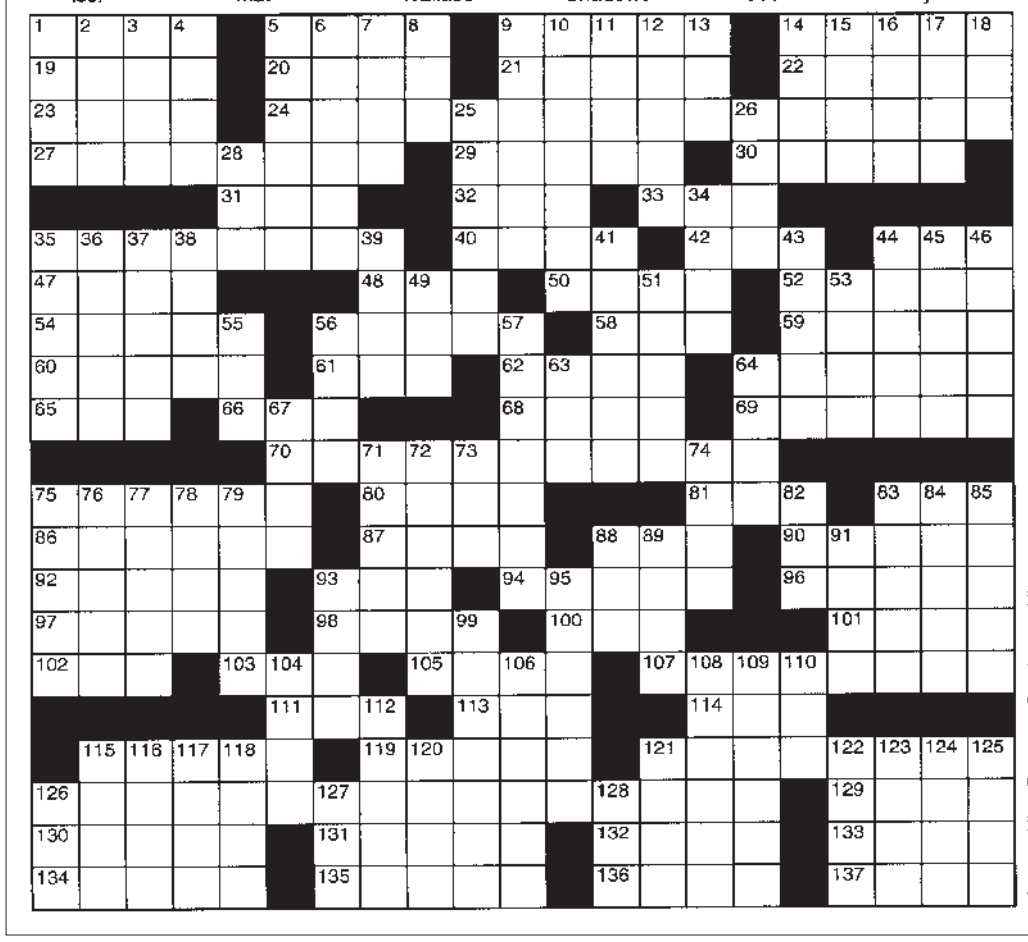
WAIST OF MONEY

ACROSS

1 Meat cut
5 "— You Babe" ('65 song)
9 Skimmer material
14 Chauvinist
19 Othello's ensign
20 — contendere
21 What the nose knows
22 Greene or Michaels
23 Be a blacksmith
24 Start of a remark by James Dent
27 Appropriates
29 Dutch artist Jan
30 Let up
31 Rep.
32 Speakeasy patron
33 Hoover, for one
35 Part 2 of remark
40 Beginning on
42 '72 Michael Jackson smash
44 Impact sound
47 Downey of "Touched by an Angel"
48 Woodworking tool
50 New York university
52 "Butterfield 8" author
54 Rouse
56 Singer Payne
58 Plant disease
59 Ponti's partner
60 Become a prune
61 Islands instrument
62 Baby —
64 Like Hercules
65 "Malcolm X" director
66 — Mahal
68 Widespread
69 Shed
70 Part 3 of remark
75 Ambush man
80 Ripped
81 Periodontists' org.
83 Bud
86 Tweety Pie, e.g.
87 Highlands tongue
88 Nobelist Octavio
90 Man from Malmo
92 Hersey setting
93 They may be personal
94 Ornamental mat
96 "Salome" character
97 Like some paper
98 Covenant
100 Opie's aunt
101 Unit of area
102 Archaic preposition
103 Conductor Queler
105 Snake sound
107 Part 4 of remark
111 Slalom curve
113 Ruby of "A Raisin in the Sun"
114 Limit
115 Sink
119 Dust busters
121 — squash
126 End of remark
129 Peace of mind
130 Soviet cooperative
131 "He's making — . . ."
132 Buffalo waterfront
133 Jocular Johnson
134 Director Sergio
135 "Beau —" ('39 film)
136 Equipment
137 Actor Wallace

DOWN

1 Speech problem
2 Neighbor of Molokai
3 Violinist Oistrakh
4 Playwright Coward
5 Spectrum shade
6 Discuss
7 Auto pioneer
8 Petite pooch
9 Prepares onions
10 ". . . baby on the —"
11 Emulate Sinbad
12 Improve
13 Violent card game?
14 Hunk of gunk
15 Pindaric character
16 Pluck
17 Fairy-tale start
18 Golfer's gadget
25 Disney rabbit
26 Tom, Dick, or Harry
28 No Einstein
34 Encourage a culprit
35 Go fishing
36 Long of football
37 Stun
38 Daily receipts
39 TV's "— Shadows"
41 Remote
43 Nick of "I Love Trouble"
44 Strauss aristocrat
45 Common contraction
46 Chutney ingredient
49 Minuscule
51 Reindeer name
53 Israeli dance
55 Tolkien creation
56 Japanese volcano
57 Rubbed the wrong way
63 Garage supply
64 Runners carry it
67 Crooked
71 Bara of the silents
72 Judd of "George & Leo"
73 "— a Rebel" ('62 hit)
74 Unclear
75 It'll give you a weigh
76 Lowest point
77 Absurd
78 Sheet of stamps
79 Carve a canyon
82 Furniture wood
83 "Thanks, Robespierre!"
84 Idolize
85 Surrenders
88 In-your-face item
89 Guinness or Baldwin
91 Sport
93 Does Little work
95 Preoccupy
99 Most methodical
104 Jacket feature
106 Hardly hyper
108 Small shrub
109 Foam
110 Choose, with "for"
112 Face lift?
115 Wet blanket
116 Concerning
117 WWII gun
118 Tropical spot
120 Handel's "— and Galatea"
121 Spotless
122 "— of the Cat" ('77 hit)
123 Reduce, with "down"
124 — Spumante
125 Poverty
126 Baseball's Ripken
127 Witty one
128 Foster or Tilly



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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: What is the third longest river system in the world?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is another name for totipalmate feet?
3. MUSIC: Who is the vocalist for the pop band "Blondie"?
4. U.S. STATES: What state's motto is, "If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you"?
5. BUSINESS: What is the currency of South Africa?
6. LITERATURE: What was the first land Gulliver encountered in the satirical novel "Gulliver's Travels"?
7. TELEVISION: How many years was the Western drama "Gunsmoke" on the air?
8. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was Dwight Eisenhower's vice president?
9. SCIENCE: What does beta carotene add to food?
10. MOVIES: What animated film featured the theme song "Circle of Life"?

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Answers

1. Missouri-Mississippi
2. Webbed
3. Deborah Harry
4. Michigan
5. The rand
6. Lilliput
7. 20 years
8. Richard Nixon
9. Color
10. "The Lion King"

Saturday's Answers



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BANK, Plaintiff, -v- **SUZETTE O. SASAMOTO and FELIX SASAMOTO, JR.,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0514** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 21, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 011 G 1508, situated in Kagman III, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 780 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011/G 30, the original of which was recorded on May 11, 1994, as Document No. 94-1218, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, December 30, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 14th day of November, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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Lynch carries Seahawks to win over Eagles, 31-14

SEATTLE (AP)—Marshawn Lynch loves the prime-time stage, even if he's rarely given such a spotlight.

Seattle's hard-charging running back bulled through Philadelphia for 148 yards and a pair of first-half touchdowns, David Hawthorne returned the third of Vince Young's four interceptions 77 yards for a score, and the Seahawks rolled to a 31-14 victory Thursday night that only added to the Eagles' miserable season.

Lynch ran into and escaped from a massive pileup for a 15-yard TD run in the first quarter, then made a quick cut and went back against the flow for a 40-yard scoring dash on the first play of the second quarter to give the Seahawks (5-7) a 14-0 lead.

Golden Tate's 11-yard, toe-tapping touchdown grab along the back edge of the end zone in the third quarter pushed Seattle's cushion to 17 over the Eagles (4-8).

But the Seahawks' third victory in their last four games wasn't secured until Hawthorne stepped in front of a swing pass intended for LeSean McCoy and raced untouched in the other direction with 4:24 left.

Making his third straight start in place of Michael Vick and his two broken ribs, Young couldn't find the same magic he did in the 2006 Rose Bowl when he led Texas to an upset of Pete Carroll and USC.

Young's first pass of the night was an awful interception thrown right to Seattle safety Kam Chancellor and nowhere near an Eagles receiver. Young was intercepted in the third quarter as well when a perfect pass deflected off the hands of Riley Cooper and into the hands of cornerback Brandon Browner. Both turnovers led to Seattle touchdowns.

Then came a pass for McCoy when Young clearly didn't see Hawthorne, ruining the Eagles' last chance to rally. For good measure, Young added one more interception in the final moments, giving him a career-high four picks.

Young finished 17 of 29 for 208 yards. McCoy got more chances than he did last Sunday against New England when he touched the ball just 14 times, a number that drew criticism from Eagles fans believing the leading rusher in the NFL deserved more opportunities.

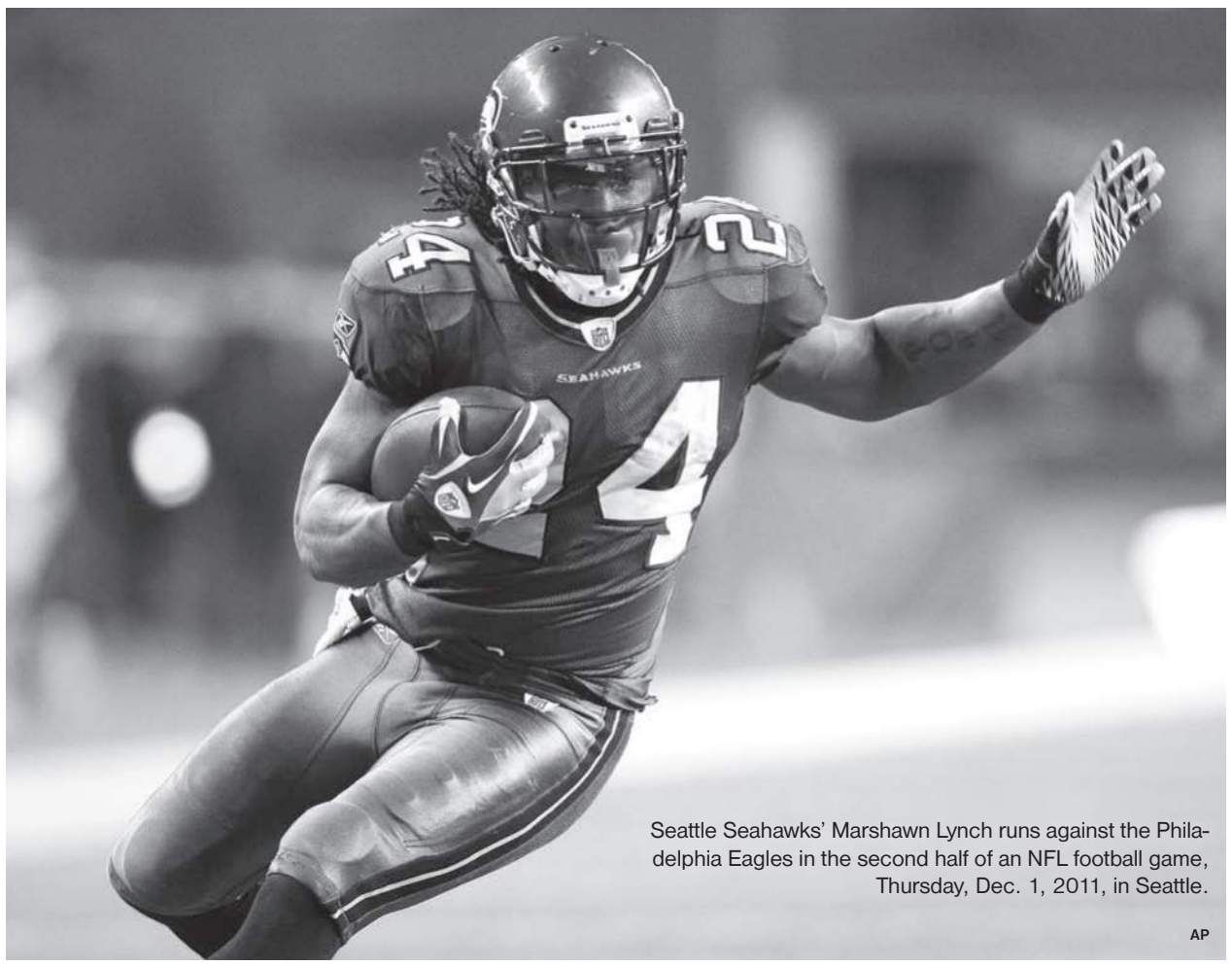
McCoy finished with 84 yards on 17 carries and added another four catches for 49 yards. But he was upstaged by Lynch.

For the fourth time in five games, Lynch topped 100 yards—and the one time he didn't, he finished with 88 yards in a victory over St. Louis. He had 90 yards by halftime on Thursday night, the most first-half yards rushing in his career. He averaged 6.7 yards per carry and almost immediately provided a spark the Seahawks needed on a short week.

And he did it while battling an upset stomach that occasionally forced him to the sideline.

Following Young's first interception, Seattle got down to the Eagles 10 on a 26-yard third-down completion from quarterback Tarvaris Jackson to Ben Obomanu. A penalty backed Seattle up 5 yards, but that only provided Lynch more room for theatrics.

On first-and-goal at the 15, he ran into a massive crowd near the 10. He got lost in the pile, wiggled out of the arms of linebacker Jamar Chaney and suddenly burst into the end zone, a run that was reminiscent of his 67-yard, tackle-breaking touchdown gallop in the playoffs last season against New Orleans.



Seattle Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch runs against the Philadelphia Eagles in the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011, in Seattle.

AP

Lynch's second touchdown was an opportunity for him to show off his open-field speed, and it came after another important third-down conversion, this time a 21-yard pass from Jackson to rookie Doug Baldwin on third-and-7. On the next snap, the flow of the play went to Lynch's left, but he immediately cut back right and found open field, beating the Eagles defense to the corner and going 40 yards untouched.

It was the second-most yards rushing in Lynch's career, behind the 153 he had in his rookie season with Buffalo against Cincinnati.

Tate's second straight game with a touchdown grab seemed to wrap up the victory. Tate outdueled a double-team at the back of the end zone and hauled in the toss from Jackson to give Seattle a 24-7 lead. Jackson finished 13 of 16 for 190 yards and a touchdown.

But the quick bounce-back by the Seahawks only magnified their missed chance last Sunday when they blew a 10-point fourth-quarter lead and lost 23-17 to Washington. Even with the win over Philadelphia and another home game coming up against St. Louis, any hopes the Seahawks have of jumping into the playoff race are likely gone.

Meanwhile, the misery only continued for Philadelphia. The Eagles played without QB Michael Vick, CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie and WR Jeremy Maclin, then lost CB Nnamdi Asomugha to a neck/head injury late in the first half.

Still, Philadelphia pulled within 24-14 early in the fourth quarter when Young led a 17-play, 80-yard drive that ate up more than 10 minutes of the clock. The drive included a fourth-down conversion inside the Seahawks 10 and was capped on a 2-yard shovel pass from Young to McCoy.

Young then drove the Eagles inside the Seattle 35 on their next possession with a chance to make it a one-score game, but failed to see Hawthorne lurking in the flat.

Penn State pledges $1.5M for sex-crimes groups

STATECOLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Penn State will donate $1.5 million in bowl proceeds to a pair of groups that work with sex-crime victims, a gesture aimed at healing the school's battered image in the wake of child sex charges against a former assistant football coach.

University President Rod Erickson promised the donation the morning after he and other administrators faced pointed questions at a student-organized town hall forum.

Erickson told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that the Big Ten bowl revenue, which usually goes back to the athletic department, will go instead to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center.

"This presents an excellent opportunity for Penn State to raise the national visibility of this issue," Erickson said. "Our students and fans are focused on a cause to play for, to cheer for."

Also Thursday, Jerry Sandusky's lawyer said he has not discussed pleading guilty with his client and that the former coach continues to maintain he is innocent of the charges against him.

Joe Amendola said he would consider "possible alternatives" with Sandusky if new charges are filed that involve more victims than the eight boys covered by the 40 pending criminal counts, but that Sandusky has never considered a plea in his case. Sandusky, 67, is awaiting a preliminary hearing.

Amendola said the topic of a guilty plea came up as a "what if" question from a reporter about potential additional charges.

"My answer to the `what if' question was analogous to saying, if weather forecasters were predicting a blizzard next week, which they are not, I would have to at least consider the possibility of postponing my scheduled trip to Philadelphia," Amendola said in an email.

In another development, lawyers for a young man described in a grand jury report as a victim of sexual abuse by Sandusky said Thursday they had settled a legal action regarding a charity's assets.

Harrisburg attorneys Ben Andreozzi and Jeffrey Fritz said the settlement protected the claim their client plans to assert to the assets of The Second Mile, a nonprofit for at-risk children Sandusky founded in 1977.

"We intend to initiate a civil lawsuit seeking damages from the organizations and individuals responsible for the sexual assaults upon our clients," the lawyers said in a release. "However, our priority at this time is to support our clients, including Victim No. 4, who will be testifying against Mr. Sandusky at the preliminary hearing."

Andreozzi and Fritz said that under terms of the settlement, The Second Mile has agreed to obtain court approval before transferring assets or closing and give their client the ability to weigh in before a judge regarding any distribution of assets.

The Second Mile released a statement calling the agreement a reiteration of its existing legal liabilities and saying it does not include a finding of liability.

The Second Mile said earlier this week that its donors should consider giving their money instead to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape, the latest sign that the charity may not be around much longer. The Second Mile said its December programs would go on as scheduled, however.

The Wednesday night forum on Penn State's main campus came on the heels of fresh sex abuse allegations against Sandusky, who was accused in a lawsuit of sexually abusing a young boy more than 100 times after meeting him through his charity.

The state police commissioner has criticized school leaders for failing to do more to alert authorities to the allegations, and Erickson told about 450 attendees at a crowded auditorium at the student union building that ethics would be raised "to a new level so that everyone at the university understands not just the legal thing to do, but the moral thing to do, so that we learn to do the right thing the first time, every time."

Students appeared grateful to get answers more than three weeks after Sandusky was charged Nov. 5, hopeful it would aid in the arduous healing process.

"I think this is a good start for a lot of good things that can happen at the university," said student Andrew Comes, 21, following the two-hour forum. "It's a singularly bad event, but there can still be positive repercussions and good things happening from it."

Administrators sought to reassure students worried about the unintended ramifications of the scandal, such as the reputation of a Penn State degree.

After several questioners mentioned they felt shamed by the scandal, vice president Henry Foley, as part of an answer about the school's top three priorities, told students to focus on academics and to "recognize that none of you are guilty. ... You may feel shame, but none of you are guilty. Just keep doing what you came here to do."

The scandal has resulted in the departures of head coach Joe Paterno and university President Graham Spanier. Athletic Director Tim Curley has been placed on administrative leave, and Vice President Gary Schultz, who was in charge of the university's police department, has stepped down.

Schultz and Curley are charged with lying to the grand jury and failure to report to police. They also maintain their innocence and have a preliminary hearing later this month.

Erickson told reporters after the forum that Spanier was on sabbatical and that as a tenured faculty member would have the right to teach if he so desired.

Several students also asked about the treatment of Paterno, who was the only school leader fired in the scandal's aftermath. Erickson said afterward he could not offer a detailed answer because it was the trustees' decision.

He reiterated there was no truth to Internet-fueled rumors that Paterno's statue outside Beaver Stadium would be removed or that the Paterno name would be removed from the campus library for which the Paterno family has donated millions of dollars.

"At some appropriate time down the road, I'm sure there will be an opportunity to also reflect on the many years of service Joe and (wife Sue Paterno) provided the university and the many good things that they've done for Penn State," Erickson said, eliciting brief applause.

NBA players return, month after scheduled opener

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony returned to work Thursday—and immediately were asked about working together.

Dallas Mavericks players took the floor without knowing if starting center Tyson Chandler would ever join them, and the Miami Heat team they beat in the NBA finals arrived to some bad injury news.

Finally, NBA players are back.

Owners opened the doors of their facilities to players for the first time since locking them out July 1. Exactly one month after the regular season was originally scheduled to begin, players could work out but their coaching staffs couldn't be present because there isn't a new labor deal yet.

"I've got to be the happiest person in the world right now just to be back in the gym, getting a chance to work out with a couple of my teammates," Paul said in New Orleans. "I'm just happy to be back and be back on the court, as I'm sure all the players are."

League officials hope to open training camps next Friday, and that stayed on track Thursday when more than 300 players submitted signatures authorizing the re-formation of the players' association. That paves the way for negotiations to continue on the remaining issues, and both sides hope the deal is ratified sometime next week.

The league planned to return player content, images and videos to NBA.com and its other media by Friday morning after removing it when the lockout began. With the lengthy labor fight all but over, a sense of excitement has returned.



AP

Miami Heat forwards Chris Bosh, left, Udonis Haslem, center, and James Jones chat during a voluntary basketball workout, Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 in Miami.

"Yeah, it was," Milwaukee general manager John Hammond said. "Since it was announced that the potential deal was imminent, it occurred immediately. I think immediately, you could kind of feel that in your gut: `Here we go, we're getting ready to get started again.' I think as each step progresses, that will continue."

In the meantime, the big news remained the focus on the headliners of the 2012 free agent class, which also includes Dwight Howard.

The agent for Deron Williams told The Record of Bergen, N.J. that his client would opt for free agency instead of a contract extension with the Nets, and Yahoo Sports reported that Paul's agent informed the Hornets that he wanted a trade to the Knicks.

Paul and Anthony are friends who spent time together this summer and it's long been speculated they wanted to play together, but Anthony denied trying to recruit his Olympic teammate.

"As far as me recruiting Chris Paul, no, not at all," he said at the Knicks' training facility. "We're very close friends. I'm pretty sure you guys saw him in New York a lot due to the player meetings and stuff like that, but we've never had any conversation about him coming to New York. That's something that I would leave up to him, him and his family. I'm staying away from that."

The Anthony trade saga lasted from the summer of 2010 until Denver finally dealt him to the Knicks in February, and he said he doesn't think the NBA needs a repeat of it now. Yet, he also realizes that "regardless of what I'm saying right here today, that will be the biggest topic, the biggest discussion, at the beginning of the season, the beginning of training camp."

Paul will do his best to ignore it.

"I don't think about it, to tell you the truth," he said. "I'm just ready to get out here and compete and hoop. This is what I do."

In the meantime, the status of the current free agents must be solved. Chandler is one of the biggest, and though he provided the Mavericks the interior defense they needed to finally win a title, they may not spend the money necessary to bring him back.

"You can't see my fingers or toes, but they are crossed hoping that Tyson's coming back," guard Jason Terry said. "He was a big part of what we accomplished here. We've laid a foundation. To take a step backward would be terrible. I'm not saying that we wouldn't have a chance to win this year if Tyson doesn't come back, but it definitely puts things up against us."

Chris Bosh, looking more muscular, arrived at Miami's facility, where LeBron James and Dwyane Wade aren't expected until next week. The Heat also were without Mike Miller, who has battled injuries since signing there last summer. He will miss about eight weeks while recovering from hernia surgery this week.

There was no guarantee Miller would return anyway, given the considerable speculation the Heat would waive him via the amnesty clause that will be in the new CBA.

"I know Mike. He's a strong guy, he's going to stay positive and he's going to get back as soon as he can," said Heat forward Udonis Haslem, who went to the University of Florida with Miller and considers him one of his very closest friends. "The key with Mike is, we've got to fight him not to get back too fast. He's going to want to be out there. He's going to want to play. He's got to just pace himself and get healthy."

Otherwise, the news around the league was positive. Golden State GM Larry Riley was greeted with a warm welcome from a security guard upon his arrival at Oracle Arena.

"That guy greeted me with a huge smile and just happy to be back," Riley said. "I think that's the opinion, that's the feeling that we're going to see out of a lot of people. Now he's a happy guy anyway. But he was overly happy today."

Choi has 3-shot lead over Woods, Stricker

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—K.J. Choi opened with five straight birdies. Tiger Woods looked as good as he did in Australia, making his fourth birdie with a 3-iron to an elevated green on the par-5 fifth that covered the flag.

And then, without warning, the wind showed up Thursday in the foothills of Sherwood Country Club.

Choi held his own in gusts up to 30 mph and finished with a 6-under 66, giving him a three-shot lead over Woods and Steve Stricker in the Chevron World Challenge.

They were the only three players to break 70 in the 18-man field in the final official event in America this year.

"Anything under par is a good day today with the wind up," said Woods, a four-time winner of this event and the tournament host. "If the wind stayed down, you're going to have to shoot probably 68 or below for it to be a good score."

Five of the six players who broke par—Jim Furyk, Nick Watney and Rickie Fowler were at 71—had most recently played at blustery Royal Melbourne in the Presidents Cup.

Choi figures he had even a greater advantage. He lives in Dallas.

"I was used to playing in the windy conditions, not only playing in Melbourne, but also living in Dallas, where there's 20- to 30-mile wind every other day," Choi said. "I'm used to practicing in those conditions. I've become very comfortable in those windy conditions."

The notorious Santa Ana wind was in the forecast, with some projections of 60 mph gusts.

But when the elite field arrived at Sherwood, there was not even a breeze. Woods and Stricker birdied the opening two holes with relative ease. Woods added another birdie on No. 4 with a 25-foot putt, and then came his 3-iron from 229 yards to 18 feet for an eagle attempt that burned the edge.

He was standing on the sixth green, 15 feet behind the hole, when a big gust backed Woods off his putt and scattered leaves raced across the fairway behind him.

On the next hole, Stricker was staring over an iron shot that was drawing right at the flag. A strong gust swatted the ball out of the sky and dropped it 20 feet short of the green into the deep rough.

Watney was motoring along at 2 under when he had a birdie putt on the 14th. He addressed the ball, backed off and watched it move, costing him a one-shot penalty. A new rule that would eliminate the penalty stroke if deemed that the wind moved the ball after address is not effective until Jan. 1.

Watney took a positive out of that bogey.

"I might be the last player in history to be penalized under that rule," he said. "That could be a trivia question one day."

Best that he not hold his breath on that one.

Jason Day was among the leaders until the wind gobbled up his approach on the par-5 16th, leading to double bogey. Then he hit into the trees on the par-3 17th and injured his right thumb trying to play out of the mess. He made another double bogey, and then finished with a bogey for a 74.

Matt Kuchar, coming off a World Cup win with Gary Woodland in China, was 4 under until he made triple bogey on the 16th, bogeyed the 17th and had to settle for a 72.

Woods also made a bogey on the 16th after popping up a tee shot and running into trouble with his attempt to lay up. Earlier on the ninth hole, he had a nasty lie on the side of a hill with a large branch in his way, and he moved the ball only about 10 yards. But those were the rare mistakes.

He looked very steady for nine rounds in the wind in Australia. In more gusts at Sherwood, he didn't look much differently. He was in control of his irons and even when he did miss off the tee, it wasn't by much.

"It looks like he's getting a lot of confidence back again," Stricker said. "It looks like the Tiger of old, really, and it's great to see. We need him out there playing, and playing well."

Stricker hit a superb shot on the 10th with the wind at his back. After hitting driver that left him an awkward yardage—about 50 yards to a front pin—he nipped a wedge that just carried onto the green and checked up 3 feet away. He birdied the 18th to join Woods in second place, although Woods will be in the final group Friday with Choi.

Choi, even though he was three groups behind Woods, saw enough of him in the opening round. The fourth and fifth holes go in opposite direction of the second and third holes, and what Choi saw caught his attention, particularly the 3-iron that Woods hit on No. 5.

"I think he is really 80, 90 percent back to his form again," Choi said. I'm very happy about playing with him tomorrow. Tiger is a good friend. He's got a very strong will. He's got the right mental attitude right now, and I think it's going to be a very fun day tomorrow.

"I watched him play a couple of holes today, and I was very impressed at the way he was swinging, at his rhythm, at the power he had," Choi said. "It almost seemed like watching the old Tiger back in the day."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	331	223
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	256	241
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	261	281
Miami	3	8	0	.273	212	206
South						
Houston	8	3	0	.727	293	179
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	226	212
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	138	200
Indianapolis	0	11	0	.000	150	327
North						
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	272	182
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	233	188
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	259	215
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	165	216
West						
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	260	274
Denver	6	5	0	.545	221	260
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	153	265
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	249	275

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	7	4	0	.636	270	225
N.Y. Giants	6	5	0	.545	252	277
Washington	4	7	0	.364	183	222
Philadelphia	4	8	0	.333	271	282
South						
New Orleans	8	3	0	.727	362	252
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	259	227
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	199	291
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	252	305
North						
Green Bay	11	0	0	1.000	382	227
Chicago	7	4	0	.636	288	232
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	316	246
Minnesota	2	9	0	.182	214	295
West						
San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	262	161
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	213	256
St. Louis	2	9	0	.182	140	270

Yesterday's Game
Seattle 31, Philadelphia 14

CHEVRON WORLD CHALLENGE SCORES

THOUSAND OAKS, California (AP)–Scores Thursday from the $5-million Chevron World Challenge played at the par-72, 7,023-yard Sherwood Country Club:

FIRST ROUND

K.J. Choi	31-35–66
Tiger Woods	33-36–69
Steve Stricker	34-35–69
Nick Watney	34-37–71
Jim Fuyrk	36-35–71
Rickie Fowler	37-34–71
Matt Kuchar	35-37–72
Hunter Mahan	35-37–72
Gary Woodland	37-36–73
Webb Simpson	35-38–73
Zach Johnson	37-36–73
Jason Day	35-39–74
Bo Van Pelt	37-37–74
Bubba Watson	36-39–75
Keegan Bradley	39-37–76
Martin Laird	40-37–77
Bill Haas	40-38–78
Paul Casey	38-41–79

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7TH SAIPAN

From Page 28

said MVA Marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We are also lining up media coverage for both pre- and post-event coverage to make the most of this event with international publicity."

The 7th Annual Saipan Marathon will feature a full marathon (26.2 miles/42.195 kilometers), a half marathon (13.1 mi./21.1 km), and a 10K (6.2 miles). The full marathon begins at 4:30am, followed by the next two races.

CNMI and U.S. early bird registration (by Feb. 2, 2012), is $55 for the marathon and $45 for the half marathon and 10K. Registration after Feb. 2 will be an additional $10. International rates are $100 for the full marathon and $70 for the half marathon and 10K. The last day to register is 5pm, Feb. 9. The entry fee includes the awards banquet, finisher's T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

For a registration form or more information, visit www.mymarians.com or http://japan.mymarianas.com/saipan-marathon/ or contact Ed Diaz of the Marianas Visitors Authority at ediaz@mymarianas.com or 664-3200/1. ***(PR)***

B-Fanihi frontrunner ousted from Bud Cup

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Saipan Electronic Dart Association's Ladies Division, Master's, and B-Flame Tree frontrunners are still in contention for the coveted Bud Cup trophy, while B-Fanihi's top seed Echoserong Kamote's stumbled in this week's opening round.

Ladies Division's Try Luck of D'Pirates Bar, Master Division's IT&E Kamote's of Es'y Kitchen, and B-Flame Tree's Gaiana-B of Bar Gaia all advanced to the semifinal round, while B-Fanihi's Echoserong Kamote's of Naked Fish Bar & Grill fell victim to an upset by second-ranked SOS Akiramenai, 6-9, in their road match held at Es'y Kitchen Thursday night.

B-Fanihi's SOS will be paired against Gaia's World B, which dropped VFW Post 3457's Dutty Gunz, 8-6 on the road on Thursday.

The other semifinalists feature Es'y's Kitchenshooters against Oh Yeah!.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Es'y Kitchen's SOS Jokers beat Naked Fish Bar & Grill's top-ranked Echoserong Kamote's out of the running for SEDA's postseason Budweiser Cup tournament last Thursday.

The Kitchenshooters upset No Fear, 8-4 at home, while Oh Yeah! went into Jonny's Bar & Grill and bested Sekid, 8-5, to advance through the first round.

At Jonny's on Monday, top-ranked Try Luck pounced on runner-up Man-Amigas, 8-2, winning via concession after 10 games to advance to the second round.

Jonny's Island Girls made it past Joe's Steakhouse's Just Like That, 8-6, at home and will try its luck against the frontrunner in a home draw on Monday.

Monday's winner will challenge the winner between D'Pirates' Star Magic and Joe's Daffodils in the finals on Dec. 12.

In the Master Division, IT&E Kamote's clinched a semifinals berth, 9-4, in a road draw over runner-up and sister team SOS Jokers last Monday.

IT&E will take on D-Pirates' M-Destroyers, which knocked out its sister team D'Companeros, 9-1, in a road draw.

These two contenders will square off next Monday with the victor facing the winner between Jonny's Azkals and the Snipers.

In Thursday's Flame Tree round, Gaiana-B took down second-ranked Sabalu Boys, 8-5, at D'Pirates and will face Joe's TBA Oneshot in the semifinals.

TBA Oneshot edged out Chagi Sang, 8-7, on the road at D'Pirates.

Naked Fish's Na'Gupu and Joe's Skoregazzzums make up the other semifinal pairing.

Na'Gupu squeaked past D'Pirates Lucky Shot, 8-7, on the road, while the Skoregazzzums routed Why Not, 8-3, in a road draw held at its home bar.

Donaire makes Big Apple return vs Vasquez



MANILA, Philippines—Nonito Donaire Jr., the reigning WBO and WBC bantamweight champion, is set to face Puerto Rican former champion Wilfredo Vazquez at the Theatre of the Madison Square Garden early next year.

Top Rank boss Bob Arum was quoted in Internet reports as saying he's reserving a date in February for the Donaire-Vazquez affair at the same venue where the Filipino champ won an uneventful shutout win over a reluctant Omar Narvaez of Argentina last Oct. 22.

Donaire started his workout in Las Vegas last Wednesday in preparation for his first fight in the super bantamweight division. Vazquez is a former WBO super bantam titlist who lost his crown to Mexican Jorge Arce last May.

Arce, who has been touted as a future Donaire foe, has since moved down from 122 lb to 118 during his recent fight against Indonesian Angky Angkotta in his hometown of Sinaloa, Mexico. Arce won by unanimous decision.

If plans push through, Donaire may fight at least four times next year to make up for a virtual inactivity last year which began with a sensational second round knockout win over Fernando Montiel.

Vazquez, who stands 5-foot-5, floored the 5-foot-4 Arce in the fourth round of their fight in Las Vegas only to see the Mexican rally in the latter rounds and score the TKO win.

The 27-year-old Vazquez is 21-1-1 with 18 stoppages. ***(PDI)***

RBC

From Page 28

Fifteen-year-old Rios put on quite a show in her second Hoop Fest appearance.

She even got a chance to referee some of the recreational division U12 and U14 games during the tournament.

"I was a little nervous when I was refereeing, but I just zoned out the crowd, which was really loud, and focused on the action," she said.

On measuring up the competition as a player she added, "Our transition offense was running on all cylinders and we kept the pedal to the metal. It was a great experience playing against Guam and we are looking forward to seeing them again."

Francisco is 12 years old and really came into his own in his first appearance on the big stage.

"You know, all of these kids look forward to going Guam because I think they see it as a way to make all their hard work pay off. I am really proud of that guy because it was his first trip to Guam and instead of shying away; he stepped big and elevated his game," said Diaz of Francisco.

Francisco learned the game from his five older brothers and the young forward looks as though he has a growth spurt or three coming in the near future.

"I really liked playing on the court over there and it was great to face the new competition," said Francisco.

In reaction to his performance he said, "I wasn't really scared because of my age, in fact I noticed that I was open a lot so I just took the shots. At first I was surprised that my numbers made the list and then grew a little disappointed that I was one-upped by my friend Jun (Fidelino). It was so much fun though and we all did a great job. Our team shared the ball very well and mixed it up on them good."

Fidelino, U14B's MVP C.J. Morales, 14A's Prince Factor, and now Guam resident and U25's Manny Matagolai were not present in Thursday's assembly.

Fidelino tallied 27 points (9.0 avg.) in three games to Francisco's 26 (8.67 avg.). Morales ran the point and fed the U14B duo, while Factor held his own against some deep U14A competition, finishing with 43 points (14.33 avg.) in three games. Matagolai led a tough U25 field with 49 points (24.40 avg.) in three games and Rios tallied 25 points (8.33) in her three outings.

The RBC gang has been enjoying a break for about a week, after which it is back to practice at the Garapan court.

The club has its U14 Christmas 3-On-3 Family Fun Tournament coming up on Dec.16 and 17. They are also hoping to start up its own youth league, which was sponsored last year by IT&E, around the turn of the calendar year.

In March 2012, coach Diaz is going back to Guam with his U25 Rollers and up to three other Saipan squads to participate in the March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Championships held at the Anderson Air Force Base's Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex. The Hoopaholics, Ol'Aces, and Proa are the other interested teams. The RBC and Hoopaholics appeared in last year's event and were invited back as B-division contenders.

NBA

From Page 28

be-ratified collective bargaining agreement, Williams is going to opt out of his contract at the end of the shortened season—if only to squeeze another year and $30 million more from the Nets after the new labor deal is in place.

If anybody still harbored doubts about who won the lockout battle, those two examples are a good place to start. The NBA was, is and—despite the new agreement—will forevermore be a players' league, simply because there's too few of them to go around. According to the latest Forbes' rankings, there's nearly twice as many billionaires around the globe (937), and almost as many residing in the United States (403), as there are NBA-caliber players (roughly 450), let alone real superstars (a dozen). And since each of the league's 30 franchises needs at least one of them—preferably two or three—to make money, there's no question where the leverage lies.

To be fair to Commissioner David Stern and his owners, they did slow the rate of spending. They got a much better cut of the basketball-related income, about 50 percent annually vs. a high of 57 percent in some years under the old deal, and increased the luxury tax. They get to bury some mistakes under the amnesty clause. They even got a few concessions, making it easier for the have-nots to make a shrewd pickup occasionally and hang onto their own players at every stage of their careers—whether it's a still-blossoming youngster like the Bulls' Derrick Rose, a mid-level exception like Shane Battier or a proven veteran like Williams.

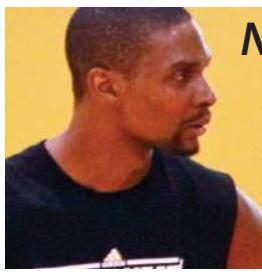
To do that, the have-nots will need to spend more money. Smarts alone will not close the gap between clubs like the Kings, which spent $46 million last season, and the Lakers, who dropped $110 million. The owners knew that going in.

Besides, short of getting rid of free agency, the NBA can only do so much to restrict players from landing where they want. Even the NFL, which is every team owner's dream of how a pro sports league should be run—hard salary cap, franchise tag and revenue-sharing -hasn't able to do that. But because no single NFL player can shift a team's fortunes the way Kevin Durant did almost single-handedly in Oklahoma City, there will always be more wheeling and dealing in the NBA. The owners knew that going in, too.

That's why the whirlwind free-agent signing flurry and the season—even in the compressed time frame—will look familiar. More superstars will try to hook up with their pals in the bright lights of the big-market cities, the way LeBron James and Chris Bosh did by moving to Miami and Carmelo Anthony did by relocating to New York. If reports are true, Chris Paul's agent is already pricing flights for his client from New Orleans to the Big Apple. Next, ask yourself how much longer Dwight Howard wants to stay in Orlando to try to win a championship by himself, as opposed to moving to, say, Los Angeles, and kicking the ball out to Kobe Bryant on the perimeter.

To make those moves, the players would have to take a haircut—let's say Paul gets $60 million long-term from the Knicks, vs. $70 million to stay in New Orleans. And the clubs that sign them would have to pay additional luxury taxes. But if you think either of those factors will be a real drag on player movement—check out the soaring stock price on Madison Square Garden Co. since the tentative deal was reached—you haven't been paying attention. Plus, Stern's unceasing effort the past two decades to globalize the game has brought with it increased competition.

But the players better be careful what they wish for. While Singler is only too happy to stay in Spain, NBA free agents Wilson Chandler, J.R. Smith, Patty Mills, Kenyon Martin and Aaron Brooks may wind up languishing in China. They all signed to play in the Chinese Basketball Association ahead of the lockout and chances are good they're stuck there for the season, proving what goes around sometimes comes around, too.



NBA players return, month after scheduled opener

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Sports



Lynch carries Seahawks to win over Eagles, 31-14

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Trench Tech lines up 2012 events

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Promotions just released its lineup for 2012 and tentatively schedules five mixed martial events throughout the year.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said its slate of events for 2012 starts with Rites Of Passage 12: Unstoppable, expected to take place on March 16.



Alvarez

Then about a month and a half later, Trench Tech's Art of War 7: No Gi Grappling and Submission Challenge is slated for April 28.

After about a two-month break, Trench Warz 16: Fire Power is scheduled to go down on June 22 with the latter half of the year to feature two more events.

Namely, Rites Of Passage 13: Destiny, which is expected to kick off on Sept. 28 and Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night, scheduled for Dec. 14.

Dates are subject to change. Locations and times of the events are still being determined.

Interested participants (male or female) feel free to contact Alvarez at 483-4MMA (4662) for more information.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Coach Joe Diaz and several Rollers Basketball Club players pose for a team photo with the group's U14B and U16-U18 coed recreation division trophies they won in last week's 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest basketball tournament held in Guam.

RBC brings home the bacon

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

A small group of Rollers Basketball Club players gathered at the Garapan Basketball Court Thursday afternoon to pose for a group photo with the two championship trophies they won in last week's 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest basketball tournament held in Guam.

"It rained some today and technically my players are on a break right now, but we decided to try and gather some players here anyways today. We just want to thank all of our sponsors and supporters once again and hope that our trophies show them that our club is making good progress," said RBC head coach Joe Diaz.

Diaz added, "This Guam event gets bigger and bigger every year and I attest that our club is getting more and more atoned to representing Saipan well in off-island competition.

The club entered teams in six of the event's nine divisions and came home with U14B recreational and U16-U18 coed division championships as well as the U12 coed runner-up plaque.

Notably, the U12 team advanced through its round robin undefeated and held the top seed heading into the finals.

Among the players present Thursday was U16-U18 coed scoring champ and most valuable player Keolani Rios and U14B's Wilfredo Francisco. Francisco finished second place on the U14B scoring list.

See RBC on Page 27

7th Saipan Marathon set for March 3

One of the Pacific region's fastest growing races returns for its 7th running on March 3, 2012, with the staging of the Saipan Marathon in the Northern Mariana Islands.

With 800 plus runners in 2011, the Marianas Visitors Authority is planning for even more participants in the next round.

"The Saipan Marathon continues to grow in popularity, and we're looking forward to our biggest participation yet in March 2012," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Once again, our goal is to have a seamless event for the runners, and we've already started working on our checklists, locally and internationally."

The 2011 running of the event received a big boost from the participation of popular Japanese comedian and NMI Tourism Ambassador Kanpei Hazama, who attracted a large number of followers, media coverage, and sponsorship last year. Hazama is expected to return in 2012.

"Our Japan office has already commenced outreach to running groups via the Internet and at other marathons in Japan,"

See 7TH SAIPAN on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of last year's 6th Annual Saipan Marathon run along Beach Road. The 2011 edition of the 42-kilometer event is set for March 3.

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke(at)ap.org. Follow him at http://Twitter.com/JimLitke



NBA players won— and always will

Kyle Singler's NBA draft rights may belong to Detroit, but his body will be playing pro basketball this season in Spain, where the 10-day forecast calls for sunny skies and temperatures in the 60s and his new team, Real Madrid, will pay him better than the Pistons would. Small wonder Singler isn't rushing back to the Motor City, even if the lockout is over.

Deron Williams, on the other hand, is already back in New Jersey after a brief stint playing in Turkey, where his team, Besiktas, retired his No. 8 jersey and no doubt would have erected a statue in his honor had Williams stuck around. But Nets fans should be careful about falling head over heels for the guy. His agent just told the club that because of a new rule in the still-to-

See NBA on Page 27